



Aircraft Lands In US Capitol; Pilot In Custody

A member of a bomb squad checks a small helicopter after a man landed on the West Lawn of the Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, April 15, 2015. Police arrested a man who steered his tiny, one-person helicopter onto the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol Wednesday, astonishing spring tourists and prompting a temporary lockdown of the Capitol Visitor Center.

(AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)
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Ex-NFL player Aaron Hernandez Convicted of Murder

MICHELLE R. SMITH
Associated Press

FALL RIVER, Massachusetts
(AP) — Former New England Patriots star Aaron Hernandez was found guilty Wednesday of first-degree murder and sentenced to

life in prison in a late-night shooting, sealing the downfall of an athlete who once had a \$40 million contract and a standout career ahead of him. Hernandez, 25, looked to his right, pursed his lips and

sat down as the jury forewoman announced him guilty in the slaying of Odin Lloyd, a 27-year-old landscaper and amateur weekend football player who was dating the sister of Hernandez's fiancée. The first-

degree murder conviction carried a mandatory sentence of life in prison without parole and automatically triggered an appeal to Massachusetts' highest court.

Hernandez's mother, Terri,

and his fiancée, Shayanna Jenkins, cried and gasped when they heard the verdict. Shayanna Jenkins wept on his mother's shoulder.

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Ex-NFL player Aaron Hernandez Convicted of Murder



Former New England Patriots NFL football player Aaron Hernandez, center, stands with his defense attorneys, from left, Charles Rankin, Micheal Fee and James Sultan, as the verdict is read in his murder trial, Wednesday, April 15, 2015, at Bristol County Superior Court in Fall River, Mass. Hernandez was found guilty of first-degree murder in the shooting death of Odin Lloyd in June 2013. (Dominick Reuter/Pool Photo via AP)

Continued from front

Hernandez, his eyes red, later mouthed to them: "Be strong. Be strong." Lloyd's mother also cried. The former football pro was also found guilty on firearm and ammunition charges. The jury deliberated over seven days before rendering its verdict. "The jury found that he was just a man who committed a brutal murder," District Attorney Thomas Quinn

said. "The fact that he was a professional athlete meant nothing in the end." For reasons that were never made clear to the jury, Lloyd was shot six times in the middle of the night on June 17, 2013, in a deserted industrial park near Hernandez's home. Police almost immediately zeroed in on Hernandez because they found in Lloyd's pocket the key to a car the NFL player had rented. Within hours of Her-

nandez's arrest, the Patriots cut the former Pro Bowl athlete, who was considered one of the top tight ends in the game. Prosecutors presented a wealth of evidence that Hernandez was with Lloyd at the time he was killed, including home security video from Hernandez's mansion, witness testimony and cellphone records that tracked Lloyd's movements. Hernandez's lawyer, James

Sultan, acknowledged for the first time during closing arguments that Hernandez was there when Lloyd was killed. But the attorney pinned the shooting on two of Hernandez's friends, Ernest Wallace and Carlos Ortiz, saying his client was a "23-year-old kid" who witnessed a shocking crime and didn't know what to do. Wallace and Ortiz will stand trial later. All 12 jurors and three alternates spoke to reporters Wednesday, saying they were shocked by the defense admission that Hernandez was at the scene of the killing — an admission that they said helped confirm that he was guilty. Prosecutors have suggested Lloyd may have been killed because he knew too much about Hernandez's alleged involvement in a deadly 2012 drive-by shooting in Boston. But they were not allowed to tell the jury that because the judge said it was speculation. As a result, they never offered a motive beyond saying Hernandez appeared angry with Lloyd at a nightclub two nights before the killing. Hernandez faces further legal trouble: He is awaiting trial on murder charges in the drive-by shooting. He is

accused of gunning down two men over a spilled drink at a nightclub. In the Lloyd killing, the defense argued that investigators fixated on Hernandez because of his celebrity and conducted a shoddy investigation in their zeal to confirm their suspicions. Prosecutors said Hernandez organized the killing, summoned his two friends to help carry it out, and drove Lloyd and the others to the secluded spot in the industrial park. During closing arguments, prosecutors also accused Hernandez of pulling the trigger, though under the law it was not necessary to prove who fired the shots to convict him. Security video from inside Hernandez's home showed him holding what appeared to be a gun less than 10 minutes after Lloyd was killed. The surveillance system also captured Hernandez, Wallace and Ortiz relaxing at his home hours after Lloyd was shot, hanging out in the basement "man cave," lounging by the pool and cuddling Hernandez's baby daughter. The conviction carries a mandatory sentence of life without parole and automatically triggers an appeal to Massachusetts' highest court. □

Aircraft Lands In US Capitol; Pilot In Custody

ALAN FRAM
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — Police arrested a man who steered his tiny aircraft onto the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol after flying through restricted airspace around the National Mall Wednesday. The pilot was Doug Hughes, 61, a Postal Service worker from Ruskin, Florida, according to a person who was briefed by Capitol Police and revealed the information on condition of anonymity. On his website, Hughes took responsibility for the stunt and said he was delivering letters to all 535 members of Congress to draw attention to campaign finance corruption. "As I have informed the

authorities, I have no violent inclinations or intent," Hughes wrote on his website, thedemocracyclub.org. "An ultralight aircraft poses no major physical threat — it may present a political threat to graft. I hope so. There's no need to worry — I'm just delivering the mail." A second source, a Senate aide, said Capitol Police knew of the plan shortly before Hughes took off, and said he had previously been interviewed by the U.S. Secret Service. The sources spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss details of the investigation. Capitol Police declined to publicly confirm the man's identity. Capitol Police identified



In this March, 2015, photo, Doug Hughes flies his gyrocopter near the Wauchula Municipal Airport in Wauchula, Fla. Police arrested Hughes who steered his tiny aircraft onto the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol after flying through restricted airspace around the National Mall Wednesday. (James Borchuck/The Tampa Bay Times via AP)

the open-air aircraft, which sported the U.S. Postal Service logo and landed about half a city block from the Capitol building,

as a "gyrocopter with a single occupant." Hughes flew to Washington from the vicinity of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, which

took about an hour, said Ben Montgomery, a reporter with the Tampa Bay Times. Montgomery said Hughes discussed his plan in advance with the newspaper, had meticulously plotted his flight and considered himself on a mission that was "sort of a mix of P.T. Barnum and Paul Revere." House Homeland Security panel Chairman Michael McCaul said the pilot landed on his own, but authorities were prepared to shoot him down if he had made it much closer to the Capitol. "Had it gotten any closer to the speaker's balcony they have long guns to take it down, but it didn't. It landed right in front," McCaul said. □

As Ebola retreats, Obama urges vigilance and preparation in Africa



President Barack Obama with Vice President Joe Biden, back right, meets with, from left, Sierra Leone President Ernest Bai Koroma, Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and Guinean President Alpha Condé, in the Cabinet Room of the White House in Washington, Wednesday, April 15, 2015, to discuss progress made in the international Ebola response.

(AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

HELENE COOPER
© 2015 New York Times

WASHINGTON - Now that the Ebola crisis in West Africa finally appears to be petering out, President Barack Obama called on Wednesday for renewed international efforts to rebuild the shattered health systems in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone, to shore up the response to future pandemics in the region. Appearing at the White House alongside the presidents of the three countries, the hardest hit by the latest outbreak, Obama said the global response must continue, even as the number of new Ebola cases has dropped to zero in Liberia and about 30 in Guinea and Sierra Leone. "We have to be vigilant, and the international community has to remain fully engaged in a partnership with these three countries until there are no cases of Ebola," Obama said. "Health systems also have to be rebuilt to meet daily needs - vaccines for measles, delivering babies safely, treating HIV/AIDS and malaria."

Obama made his remarks while flanked by Presidents Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia, Ernest Bai Koroma of Sierra Leone and Alpha Condé of Guinea, in a scene that was far different from the widespread panic seven months ago amid calls for the United

States to close its borders to travelers from the affected countries.

Anxieties have settled down since then. In Liberia, there have been no new Ebola cases since March 20; if that number remains at zero the country will be declared Ebola-free at the beginning of next month. The U.N. Mission for Ebola Emergency Response reported that as of April 10, there were 21 confirmed new cases in Guinea and nine new cases in Sierra Leone, compared with 52 and 25 the previous week. Since the outbreak began more than a year ago, there have been 26,611 confirmed, probable and suspected cases of Ebola, with 10,611 reported deaths, the agency said. Even though the threat of further infection has declined significantly, all three presidents and their entourages were issued temporary cellphones and thermometers upon arrival in the United States and, like all visitors from Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea, must take their temperatures daily while in the United States and report it to the U.S. health authorities. Obama shook hands with all three presidents, aides said.

About 3,000 U.S. troops went to Liberia as part of the American effort to combat the disease, and about 100 remain. The U.S. military

officially ended a mission to build treatment facilities

in February, months earlier than expected.

The race to get to zero cases is crucial, Obama administration officials said on Wednesday, because the porous borders between the three worst affected countries means that all three will remain at risk until the virus is gone from neighboring countries.

A health official in Liberia said Wednesday that the authorities there were focused on providing care and help for survivors who need chronic care services for post-Ebola syndrome, which includes vision loss, joint pain and psychological trauma.

The World Health Organization has been urging Ebola survivors to have protected sex, with condoms, until global health officials can

figure out just how long the virus remains in semen, after a case in Liberia in which a man's semen tested positive for the virus six months after he was considered free of Ebola.

An Obama administration official said Wednesday that efforts were underway to revamp the struggling health systems in the three countries so that any future outbreaks would not spiral out of control. Even before Ebola, all three countries had struggled with a host of public health maladies common in the developing world, including malaria and measles.

The challenge now, administration officials said, is to figure out how to retool the massive Ebola response infrastructure to adapt to other health concerns. □

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Celebrating Boston Marathon, While Honoring Victims' Memory

KATHARINE Q. SEELYE
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BOSTON - This city, for so long huddled inward, is slowly breaking out of its winter shell.

After Boston's snowiest winter on record, the last of the ice-encrusted black mounds are finally receding. The Public Garden is still shrouded in earth tones, but tiny buds are just visible

ton to rejoice in the race on Marathon Monday with 1 million spectators, but on Wednesday it honors the victims and survivors of the bombings and the many emergency medical workers who rushed to their aid and saved countless lives.

"April 15 is a date that has come to stand for our city's deepest values," Mayor Martin J. Walsh said as he

forward, but the marathon is cyclical, returning every year, bringing them back in a public way to events that changed their lives forever and that some are trying to forget.

Bill Richard, whose 8-year-old son, Martin, was killed in the bombings, has said that if his son had to die, he wished it would have been in a car accident on

anger, vengeance and mercy - and about whether Tsarnaev should be sentenced to death.

From the finish line to talk radio, from social media to everyday conversations in bars and offices, Boston is brimming with opinions on punishment. Schools here are using the occasion as a teachable moment.

Most people seem to want

said that they want his life spared. So does the sister of Sean Collier, the MIT police officer whom Tsarnaev killed; she wrote on Facebook that she "can't imagine that killing in response to killing would ever bring me peace or justice."

But Baker, a Republican, wants Tsarnaev sentenced to death. And Boston's police commissioner, William Evans, says he is torn between his Catholic faith and his views as a law enforcement officer. "He deliberately, maliciously blew up that family," Evans told WGBH radio, speaking of the family of Martin Richard.

Even visitors to the finish line are caught up in the debate.

"A case like this brings out what you really think about the death penalty," said Lorrie Pfaff, 46, a state parole officer from LaCrosse, Wisconsin, as she took pictures the other day of the finish line. In her case, she said, she wished that "something serious would happen to him, like what happened to his brother," who died after a shootout with police when Tsarnaev ran him over in a getaway car.

"I thought I was immune to a lot of stuff, but being here just leaves a pit in your stomach," Pfaff said.

Still, her friend, Jean Ryan, 46, of nearby Bedford, said that as loathsome as she found Tsarnaev, she opposed the death penalty. "Much as I'd like to see him fried, I'm Catholic, and I just couldn't do it," she said. Rather than imprison him in the United States, she suggested having his U.S. citizenship revoked so he could be "sent back to Russia."

The trial is on pause now, suspended between the guilt phase and the sentencing phase, giving the region what some describe as a much-needed "mental health break." It will resume Tuesday, the day after the marathon. And so even as winter has ebbed, and the bats are cracking again at Fenway, full relief may not come until Tsarnaev's fate is decided. □



Boston Marathon bombing survivors and first responders cheer after yelling "Play Ball!" prior to a baseball game between the Washington Nationals and Boston Red Sox at Fenway Park in Boston, Wednesday, April 15, 2015, the second anniversary of the Boston Marathon bombings. (AP Photo/Charles Krupa)

on the swaying branches of the weeping willows. Ice on the Charles River has given way to billowing white sails. On Boylston Street, in one of the surest harbingers of spring, the scaffolding and bleachers are going up at the finish line for Monday's 119th running of the Boston Marathon, the world's oldest annual road race. Like opening day at Fenway Park, which was a sun-splashed ode to joy this week, the marathon is a rite of spring. And this year, after a winter horribilis, Bostonians are more desperate than ever to celebrate its arrival.

But since the bombings on April 15, 2013, which killed three spectators and injured 264 others, some of them grievously, the marathon is now a two-tiered occasion. It is a time for Bos-

tonians announced a new annual observance, called One Boston Day. He said the day would honor "the spirit of grace and resilience of the people of Boston that was exemplified in the response to the loss and the tragedies of April 15, 2013." At a solemn ceremony Wednesday morning, with mournful bagpipes playing, Walsh joined survivors, victims' families, law enforcement officers and runners in unveiling banners at the site of the two bombings.

There were no speeches at the unveiling, but in a statement, Gov. Charlie Baker of Massachusetts said: "In many respects, those most affected by the events of two years ago have shown us all the way back - with their courage, grace and determination."

Survivors talk about moving

some random night so that his death would not have been so public.

"Martin died at the Boston Marathon," he told The Boston Globe last year. "The marathon is going to happen every year, and it's going to be public, whether we like it or not."

This year, on the second anniversary, the remembrance comes with an added layer of complexity. The marathon is arriving in the midst of the trial of Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, 21, a failing college student and dislocated Russian immigrant, who was convicted last week on all 30 counts against him in connection with the bombings.

For many Bostonians, the trial not only dredged up the trauma of that day, but also plunged the region into a debate about

the option that would hurt Tsarnaev the most, but they cannot decide if that would be prison for life, or death.

"Cut his head off and be through with it," said a recent caller to one radio talk show. Another asked: "Would killing him make him a martyr? Why cater to his wishes?"

Still others have wondered if prison would be "a country club existence" while one local television station has even taken viewers "inside" the supermax prison in Florence, Colorado, where Tsarnaev would probably end up if he were sentenced to life; it may also be where he would wait out his appeals if he were sentenced to death. Pope Francis and the Archbishop of Boston, Cardinal Sean O'Malley, have



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Clinton Foundation to continue accepting some foreign money



Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton meets with local residents at the Jones St. Java House in LeClaire, Iowa. The board of the Clinton Foundation says it will continue accepting donations from foreign governments but only six nations, a move aimed at insulating presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton from controversies over the charity's reliance on millions of dollars from abroad.

(AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall)

STEPHEN BRAUN
 Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The board of the Clinton Foundation said Wednesday night that it will continue accepting donations from foreign governments, but only from six nations, a move that appears aimed at insulating Hillary Rodham Clinton from controversies over the charity's reliance on millions of dollars from abroad as she ramps up her presidential campaign.

Clinton, who resigned from the foundation's board last week and officially kicked off her campaign Sunday, has faced mounting criticism over the charity's ties to foreign governments. Her campaign for the Democratic nomination referred questions about the board's decision to the foundation. Clinton is the frontrunner for the Democratic presidential nomination.

The board of the Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foun-

ation said that future donations will only be allowed from the governments of Australia, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom — all nations that previously supported the charity's health, poverty and climate change programs. While direct contributions from other governments would be halted, those nations could continue participating in the Clinton Global Initiative, a subsidiary program that encourages donors to match contributions from others to tackle international problems without direct donations to the charity.

The foundation also will begin disclosing its donors every quarter instead of annually — an answer to long-standing criticism that the foundation's once-a-year lists made it difficult to view shifts and trends in the charity's funding. Former President Bill Clinton and other foundation officials have long defend-

ed the charity's transparency, but the new move signaled sensitivity to those concerns, particularly as his wife begins her race for the White House.

Last month, while she was still a foundation board

member, Hillary Clinton defended the family charity to questions about its reliance on donations from foreign governments, saying the foundation had "hundreds of thousands of donors."

An Associated Press analy-

sis of Clinton Foundation donations between 2001 and 2015 showed governments and agencies from 16 nations previously gave direct grants of between \$55 million and \$130 million. □

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Fight for \$15 protests expand for low-wage workers



Protesters rally for fair wages in view of downtown Wednesday, April 15, 2015, in Seattle. Across the U.S., fast-food and other low-wage workers are calling for protests for a \$15 an hour wage in what organizers are calling the biggest ever mobilization of workers.

(AP Photo/Elaine Thompson)

CANDICE CHOI
AP Food Industry Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — The Fight for \$15 campaign to win higher pay and a union for fast-food workers is expanding to represent a variety of low-wage workers and become more of a so-

cial justice movement. In New York City on Wednesday, more than 100 chanting protesters gathered outside a McDonald's around noon, prompting the store to lock its doors to prevent the crowd from streaming in.

Demonstrators laid on the sidewalk outside to stage a "die-in," which became popular during the "Black Lives Matter" protests after recent police shootings of black men. Several wore sweatshirts that said "I Can't Breathe," a nod to

the last words of a black man in New York City who died after he was put in a police chokehold.

Timothy Roach, a 21-year-old Wendy's worker from Milwaukee, said the police brutality black men face is linked to the lack of economic opportunity they're given. He said the protests were necessary to send a message to companies.

"If they don't see that it matters to us, then it won't matter to them," Roach said.

Organizers said demonstrations were planned for more than 230 U.S. cities and college campuses, as well as dozens of cities overseas. Among those who joined the latest day of protests were airport workers, Walmart workers and adjunct professors.

The campaign began in late 2012 and is being spearheaded by the Service Employees International Union, which represents low-wage workers in areas like home care, child care and building

cleaning services. Mary Kay Henry, the SEIU's president, said the push has already helped prompt local governments to consider higher minimum wages, nudged companies to announce pay hikes and made it easier for SEIU members to win better contracts. Those results are inspiring other groups of workers, she said.

"It has defied a sense of hopelessness," she said.

In Jackson, Mississippi, around 30 people protested in a McDonald's before being kicked out, with one of the demonstrators being arrested for trespassing. Protesters also gathered outside McDonald's restaurants in cities including Denver, Los Angeles and Albany, New York.

Even if fast-food workers and others never become union members, winning higher pay for them would benefit the SEIU by helping lift pay for its members, said Susan Schurman, dean of Rutgers School of Management and Labor Relations. "By raising the wage floor, it really benefits everyone," she said.

Ann Hodges, a professor of labor employment law at the University of Richmond, said engaging different types of workers also broadens the appeal of the movement by increasing the chances people know someone who's affected.

And the push to make Fight for \$15 more of a social justice movement makes those who might have negative perceptions about unions more likely to join, she said.

"It becomes easier to organize workers if they view it as something positive and socially desirable," Hodges said. □

Outside judge is named for police shooting case

BENJAMIN MUELLER
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NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. - In a departure from the way most cases are handled, the chief justice of the Supreme Court of South Carolina on Tuesday appointed a judge from outside North Charleston to oversee the case against the former police officer, Michael T. Slager, who has been charged with murder in the shooting of Walter L. Scott, an unarmed man who fled after being pulled over for a traffic stop on April 4. Chief Justice Jean Hofer Toal on Tuesday ordered

Judge Clifton B. Newman of South Carolina Circuit Court to preside over all legal matters in the case and to retain jurisdiction "regardless of where he may be assigned to hold court." Newman, a former prosecutor based in Kingstree, about 75 miles north of Charleston, is one of only five African-American Circuit Court judges in the state.

A clerk for the Supreme Court said in a statement that "when a matter is complex or is otherwise in need of management from beginning to end by one judge, the Chief Jus-

tice routinely issues an administrative order making such an assignment."

Charleston County's chief prosecutor, Scarlett A. Wilson, seemed to be taken aback by the move, saying in a statement that she was "unaware this was in the works." Slager's lawyer, Andy Savage, welcomed the order. "Judge Newman enjoys an excellent reputation as a jurist, and we look forward to working under his guidance," Savage said in a statement, calling it a "long-overdue decision." Pete Strom, a former U.S. attorney in South Carolina, said the order reflected a

desire to assure both law enforcement and African-Americans that an experienced hand would be steering the case. "This is important for all of us that our system look right," he said.

The new developments played out after the passenger in Scott's car, through his lawyer, made his first comments on the case. The passenger, Pierre Fulton, said that he heard the crackle of a Taser and a series of gunshots, but did not see the encounter, the man's lawyer, Mark Peper, said Wednesday morning. □

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US Financial Front:

Fed says American economy growing at moderate pace

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy was growing at a moderate pace from mid-February through the end of March although the harsh winter, the rising value of the dollar and a big plunge in oil prices were having adverse effects on some industries, the Federal Reserve said Wednesday.

In its latest survey of business conditions around the country, the Fed said that eight of its 12 banking regions described the economy as growing at either a moderate or modest pace with two others — Atlanta and Kansas City — describing conditions as steady. The report said that demand for manufactured goods was mixed with the strong dollar cutting into demand for exports. The information included in the report, known as the beige book, will be used by Fed policymakers when they next meet on April 28-29. Fed officials said at their March meeting that they did not expect to begin raising interest rates at the April meeting although they did drop language that said they would be "patient" in moving to raise a key interest rate which has been at a record low near zero since late 2008. Some economists say the Fed could start raising rates at the June meeting although other analysts are becoming more convinced that the recent economic slowdown and very low inflation will convince the Fed to wait until later in the year before starting to raise rates.

In the new survey compiled by the Fed's 12 regional banks, the Fed found that

the big rise in the value of the dollar in recent months was having an impact especially on manufacturing companies with overseas markets. The report said that a slowdown in the chemical industry had been reported by contacts in St. Louis and Kansas City while chemical companies in the Dallas region talked about a drop in export demand which they blamed on the rising value of the dollar. A stronger dollar makes U.S. products more expensive in foreign markets. The Boston, Cleveland, Chicago and Dallas districts all reported some weakening in manufacturing that could be attributed to the rise in value of the dollar. The report found that falling oil prices were giving consumers more money to spend on other products outside of energy but were having a dampening effect on energy companies, cutting investments in oil and gas drilling. Multiple districts reported increased job layoffs at energy companies because of falling oil prices. However, the Atlanta district, which covers Disney World and other tourist destinations in Florida, said that the lower gasoline prices were boosting attendance at tourist sites. The report said that auto sales were up in most districts with some reporting that lower gas prices were causing some buyers to switch from cars to SUVs. Various districts reported that tourism and business travel seemed to be rebounding following the harsh winter. The report found that labor markets were showing modest improvements

despite the higher layoffs in the energy sector with some regions reporting difficulty in finding skilled workers. The report said there were some examples of modest upward pressure on wages and overall prices. □

Roofers work on a new home in Panama City, Fla. The Federal Reserve released its Beige Book report on Wednesday, April 15, 2015. (Andrew Wardlow/News Herald via AP)



Roofers work on a new home in Panama City, Fla. The Federal Reserve released its Beige Book report on Wednesday, April 15, 2015. (Andrew Wardlow/News Herald via AP)

despite the higher layoffs in the energy sector with some regions reporting difficulty in finding skilled workers. The report said there were some examples of modest upward pressure on wages and overall prices. □



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*French Onion Soup

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or

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American Living:

Yoga successfully reaching out to heavy people

KAYLEEN SCHAEFER
© 2015 New York Times

The telemarketers and bottled-water vendors who call Anna Ipox's yoga studio in Portland, Oregon, often ask, "Is this the yoga place?"

Ipox does not answer yes. Instead, she said, "I make them say it: Say, 'Is this Fat Yoga?'"

That's the proper name of the studio, and one that many people struggle to spit out. One caller, typical of others, refused to respond directly, instead replying, "Well, how do I know you're fat?"

"People think 'fat' means slovenly, uncontrolled, dirty or lazy," Ipox said. "It doesn't."

In addition to the fact that the word fat feels fraught, it's not usually paired with yoga. Yoga conjures stringy, bendy, barely clothed bodies - not soft, round ones. But that's the stereotype that specialized classes and studios, like Fat Yoga, around the country are trying to combat in an effort to reclaim the practice for people of all body types.

In New York, there's MegaYoga, Buddha Body Yoga and Yoga for Abundant Bodies. There's Curvy Yoga in Nashville, Tennessee, HeavyWeight Yoga in Austin, Texas, and Big Yoga in Buckingham, Virginia, among others.

"Many fat people have had terrible experiences at a regular studio, where the teacher assumes they're a beginner, is unwilling to touch them or is condescending and sees them through their own prejudice," said Ragen Chastain, a writer in Los Angeles who blogs at danceswithfat.org.

She said she applauds the honest labeling of these specialized studios.

"If you sell bubble gum, you want a sign that says you sell bubble gum," Chastain said. "These names say, 'fat yoga here.' If you're fat and want to do yoga, go here."

The language is not incidental; it is no mere marketing gimmick meant to

a class called Yoga for Round Bodies at her Seattle studio. "'Fat' may be an empowering word to someone, but for me it's a word that made me feel less than. If someone puts that word to me, I feel bad."

But most of these instructors have a similar intent: to associate yoga with images that transcend the

clientele. In yoga, unlike other workouts like running or Zumba, it is necessary to adapt your practice to your body size - something some teachers don't know how to do, said Amber Karnes, who teaches Body Positive Yoga in Charlottesville, Virginia.

"They don't understand why we can't step the foot forward from a downward

the flow to lose weight.

"I've had teachers who said, 'This is going to help you stay thin,' or 'This is going to get rid of this unwanted roll here if we keep practicing,' he said. "It's like, 'Maybe I like that roll, maybe the people I date like that roll.' I had a lot of teachers treat me like I'm their special project. They'll say, 'I'm going to make you the buffest person.' They see me as the 'after' picture, when I don't want to be the 'after' picture."

Some purveyors are adamant about exclusivity. Michael Hayes, who owns Buddha Body Yoga in New York, refuses to let smaller people take his classes; if you're too skinny, you are shut out.

"Am I excluding small people for larger people?" he said. "The answer would be yes. There are lots of studios for people who are smaller."

At his studio, he once refused three tiny women who wanted to take a class.

"People who are slender aren't happy about it," he said of his policy. "The shock, annoyance and pissed-off-ness is really profound. But I'm more interested in working with the large bodies."

But other yogis are more flexible. Ipox of Fat Yoga said the point is to welcome people of all sizes. She said potential students often ask, "Am I fat enough?"

"I had to find a way to say to someone, 'You're plenty fat' or 'It's OK, you're fat,'" she said. "The script is completely flipped. A lot of people wouldn't call themselves fat anywhere but Fat Yoga, where being called fat is a good thing."



Michael Hayes, who owns Buddha Body Yoga, leads students in a pose during an intermediate-level yoga class, in New York. Specialized classes and studios, like Buddha Body Yoga, are trying to combat the stereotype of only thin people who do yoga in an effort to reclaim the practice for people of all body types. (Brian Harkin/The New York Times)

set people whispering.

"I wanted something that was unapologetically and enthusiastically voluptuous, and not as PC as 'Yoga for people who have pleasing curves,'" said Megan Stancill, who teaches a class called MegaYoga at studios in New York. "People pussyfoot around saying it, and I wanted to make it really clear who this was for. It's for people who are large."

Not everyone buys into yoga's new linguistics.

"Words are tricky," said Tracy Weber, who holds

Instagramification of perfectly fit people in the King Pigeon pose, so that it feels accessible to all.

"It's been said that yoga in America is miles wide but only an inch deep," said Abby Lentz, who owns HeavyWeight Yoga. "But it's spreading to places that it's never been before, and that includes people who thought, 'The only way I'm going to be able to do this is if I lose weight first.'"

Instructors of yoga aimed for large people customize the practice for their

dog to a lunge like everyone else," she said. She incorporates modifications for her students, like placing a bolster at the bottom of the spine for support when lying down with the legs in the air, or putting blocks under the hands while standing and folding forward, so the stomach does not get squished.

Jayvin Jordan-Green, 28, a student at Fat Yoga, found the studio by Googling "fat yoga," he said. He wanted a place to practice where the teacher wouldn't assume he was going through

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Islamic State militants seize villages near Ramadi in Iraq



Iraqi security forces and tribal fighters gather in central Ramadi before attacking Islamic State extremists in Ramadi, 70 miles (115 kilometers) west of Baghdad, Iraq, Wednesday, April 15, 2015. The Islamic State group launched an offensive in Iraq's western Anbar province on Wednesday, capturing three villages near the provincial capital of Ramadi where fierce clashes were underway between the extremists and government troops, residents said.

(AP Photo)

S. SALAHEDDIN
Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — The Islamic State extremist group launched an offensive Wednesday in Iraq's western Anbar province, capturing three villages near the provincial capital of Ramadi in what was the most significant threat to the city by the Sunni militants to date.

The militants' push comes after the Islamic State was

dealt a major blow earlier this month, when Iraqi troops routed the group from Tikrit, Saddam Hussein's hometown.

Wednesday's fighting could also further threaten Ramadi, 115 kilometers (70 miles) west of Baghdad. Nearly a decade ago, Ramadi was one of the strongholds of the insurgency in the U.S.-led war in Iraq. It now is mostly held by Iraqi government forces,

although militants control some parts of it, mainly on the outskirts.

In a dawn advance, IS extremists seized the villages of Sjarayah, Albu-Ghanim and Soufiya, which had also been under government control until now, and residents said they had to flee their homes. Fighting was also taking place on the eastern edges of Ramadi, about 2 kilometers (a mile) from a government

building, they added.

In Soufiya, the militants bombed a police station and took over a power plant. The residents, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they feared for their safety, said airstrikes were trying to back up Iraqi troops. Iraqi security officials could not immediately be reached for comment.

Around noon Wednesday, the militants opened another front with government troops on three other villages to the northeast of Ramadi, the residents added.

An Iraqi intelligence official said the militants were preparing to launch another offensive from the western side of the city, describing the situation as "critical."

The IS was also trying to take control of the main highway that goes through Ramadi to cut off supplies, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

Defense Ministry spokesman Brig. Gen. Tahseen Ibrahim acknowledged that Islamic State militants "gained a foothold in some areas" in Anbar. But he said

reinforcements were sent to the province and that airstrikes from the U.S.-led coalition were supporting Iraqi forces.

"The situation is under control, and the standoff will be resolved in the coming hours," Ibrahim told The Associated Press. He added, however, that most of the villagers in the area had fled from their homes amid the fighting.

Hundreds of U.S. and coalition forces have been training Iraqi troops at Anbar's Ain Al-Asad air base, about 110 kilometers (68 miles) west of Ramadi, which came under IS attack in mid-February. The attack, which involved a suicide bomber, was repelled.

The Anbar fighting coincides with Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi's visit to Washington where he met Tuesday with President Barack Obama and appealed for greater support from the coalition carrying out airstrikes against the IS militants, who have also captured large areas in neighboring Syria. While Obama has pledged another \$200 million in humanitarian aid, he made no mention of any further military support. □

Iraqi prime minister criticizes Saudi intervention in Yemen

MICHAEL R. GORDON
ERIC SCHMIDT

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WASHINGTON - In a remarkable clash between two key U.S. allies over Iran's role in the fight against the Islamic State, Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi of Iraq took the unusual step on Wednesday of publicly criticizing the Saudi air campaign in Yemen, and then suggested that the United States agreed with him.

Shortly afterward, the Saudi ambassador to Washing-

ton, Adel al-Jubeir, sharply rebutted the Iraqi prime minister, saying there was "no logic to those remarks." He vigorously defended the 3-week-old Saudi air campaign aimed at stopping the Houthis fighting for control of Yemen.

The United States is caught in a difficult balancing act as it tries to keep the Saudi air campaign in Yemen on track against the Iranian-backed Houthis.

But in its fight against Islamic State in Iraq, it finds

itself supporting an Iraqi military offensive that is also backed by Iran.

Al-Abadi, who this week is making his first official visit to Washington, spoke early in the day to a small group of reporters at Blair House, the White House guest residence for visiting dignitaries.

Al-Jubeir held a news conference at the Saudi Embassy a few hours later and made his remarks about al-Abadi in response to questions from reporters, some

of whom had met with al-Abadi at Blair House.

Al-Jubeir offered a highly positive picture of the Saudi campaign in Yemen, saying that the bombing had destroyed attack planes, helicopters, ballistic missiles, air defenses and command elements.

But he gave no precise figures.

The ambassador dismissed al-Abadi's claim that United States officials were worried about the goals and conduct of the air cam-

paign, saying that no U.S. official had complained to him about it.

For his part, al-Abadi said that the fighting in Yemen had created huge humanitarian problems.

"There is no logic to the operation at all in the first place," al-Abadi said. "Mainly, the problem of Yemen is within Yemen."

He also voiced concerns that Saudi airstrikes might be a precursor for a more assertive Saudi military role in the region. □

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Protester rushes ECB chief Draghi at press conference

DAVID McHUGH
 Associated Press
FRANKFURT, Germany
(AP) — It was supposed to be the European Central Bank's first calm meeting in months. President Mario Draghi was to explain how smoothly the bank's stimulus program was going. But just as he began his press conference, a protester startled participants by running from the first row of seats and leaping onto the table in front of him. She hurled what appeared to be confetti and screamed, "End the ECB dictatorship!" Security guards dragged her off the stage in seconds and took Draghi into a side room. Draghi returned minutes later looking a little shaken but resumed his statement and then answered questions for an hour, at the



A Femen activist stands on the table of the podium throwing paper at ECB President Mario Draghi, left, during a press conference of the European Central Bank, ECB, in Frankfurt, Germany, Wednesday, April 15, 2015. (AP Photo/Michael Probst)

end earning a small round of applause from the press corps for his composure. An ECB statement said "the activist registered as a journalist for a news organization she does not represent." The bank said she went through a metal detector and x-ray of her bag before entering. Some left-wing activists have accused the ECB of enforcing budget austerity measures on eurozone countries, such as Greece, that are under financial bailout programs. EU leaders have also been criticized for appointing too few women to its top leadership positions. Draghi, who didn't comment on the disruption, said in his statement that the bank was determined to pursue its existing bond-buying 1.1 trillion euro (\$1.2 trillion) stimulus program "until the end of September 2016 and, in any case, until we see a sustained adjustment in the path of inflation." Inflation at minus 0.1 percent is way below the ECB's aim of 2 percent, and a sign of a weak economy. There was some speculation that because of recent improvement in economic indicators in the 19-country eurozone the ECB might end its stimulus program before that date. Draghi was at pains to firmly quash any such talk. He used an analogy to running, saying it was "like asking after the first K, are we going to finish this marathon?" K is runner's jargon for kilometer; a marathon is just over 42 kilometers, or 26.2 miles. □

In Europe:

Feared drowning of 400 migrants raises alarms

COLLEEN BARRY
 Associated Press
MILAN (AP) — The feared drowning of 400 migrants in a shipwreck this week in the Mediterranean Sea — one of the deadliest such tragedies in the last decade — raised alarms Wednesday amid an unprecedented wave of migration toward Europe from Africa and the Middle East. The U.N. refugee agency expressed shock at the scale of the deaths in Monday's capsizing and renewed calls on European governments to redouble search and rescue efforts, while the International Organization for Migration

maintained that the situation had reached "crisis proportions." The Mediterranean "has emerged as the most dangerous" of four major sea routes used by the world's refugees and migrants, taken by 219,000 people last year, U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres said. The Italian Coast Guard rescued some 140 people of the coast of Libya on Monday and recovered nine bodies, but could see immediately from the size of the capsized smuggler's boat that there had likely been hundreds more on board. The rescue was made during a

five-day surge that saw Italian ships save nearly 10,000 people at sea since Friday — an unprecedented rate in such a short period, according to Cmdr. Filippo Marini, a Coast Guard spokesman. The number is only likely to grow, with summer weather encouraging even more people fleeing poverty and conflict to make the perilous crossing. Survivors of Monday's shipwreck reported that as many as 550 people were on board, according to aid workers. "Of course this is an estimate. No one who travels knows exactly the number.

They don't get a ticket that says: No. 550," said Barbara Molinaro, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees spokeswoman in Italy. Accounts by survivors, mostly sub-Saharan Africans, indicate the ship capsized when men on the upper deck rushed to wave down a ship they believed to be a rescue vessel, said IOM spokesman Joel Millman in Geneva. "Many were waving and gesticulating to get attention and that caused the vessel to capsize, with the speculation that women and children who were below deck were drowned instantly," Millman said. □



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In Jamaica, small amounts of marijuana are decriminalized

DAVID McFADDEN
Associated Press

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Drug law amendments that partially decriminalize small amounts of pot and pave the way for a lawful medical marijuana sector went into effect Wednesday in Jamaica, a country where the drug has long been culturally entrenched. Justice Minister Mark Golding described the reforms as “long overdue” on the Caribbean island, where the drug is revered by members of Jamaica’s Rastafarian movement and used regularly by many ordinary Jamaicans. Jamaica’s Parliament gave the amendments final approval in February.

The act makes possession of up to 2 ounces (56 grams) of marijuana, or “ganja” as it’s known locally, a petty offense that could result in a roughly \$5 ticket but not in an arrest or a criminal record.

Cultivation of five or fewer plants by any household is allowed. And Rastafarian adults are now permitted to use marijuana for sacramental purposes for the first time since the homegrown spiritual movement was founded in the 1930s.

In the late reggae icon Bob Marley’s old neighborhood of Trench Town, a dreadlocked Rastafarian adherent known as Nature enjoyed a pipe stuffed full of “wisdom weed” during a Wednesday morning smoking session. He said Jamaican police, frequently criticized for heavy-handed behavior when dealing with young men smoking marijuana, will have to learn restraint.

“The Babylon police used to abuse the Rastaman for smoking the herb. But the times are changing and the agitation has to stop,” Nature said in the Trench Town Culture Yard, where tree trunks are painted in the black, yellow, red and green of Rastafari, a movement that reveres Ethiopia’s late Emperor Haile Selassie as a god and considers black people living outside Africa as captives.

Jamaican authorities have become emboldened by changes to pot laws in U.S. states and numerous countries, and they hope the island can become a player in the burgeoning medical marijuana industry, health tourism and the development of weed-derived products. The new amendments allow possession of marijuana for certified scientific research.

A new “cannabis licensing authority” is supposed to regulate the cultivation and distribution of marijuana for legal purposes. However, it’s not clear when a regulated and taxed medical marijuana sector will get off the ground in Jamaica.

The changes will also affect some tourists. Foreigners who are prescribed medical marijuana abroad will be able to pay for Health Ministry permits authorizing them to legally buy up to 2 ounces (56 grams) of local weed for medical or therapeutic purposes during their stay. Peter Bunting, the island’s national security minister, has assured that the new law “does not create a free-for-all in the growing, transporting, dealing or exporting of ganja.”

After 11 troops killed: Colombia resumes air raids on rebels

JOSHUA GOODMAN
LIBARDO CARDONA
Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Colombia’s president on Wednesday ordered the resumption of air raids on rebel camps after an attack by leftist guerrillas killed 11 soldiers and wounded 19, jeopardizing progress in two-year-old peace talks.

President Juan Manuel Santos, however, gave no indication the government was thinking of pulling out of the negotiations, saying the bloodshed underlined the need to end Colombia’s half century conflict. The attack occurred around midnight Tuesday in the volatile southwest department of Cauca when an army platoon sleeping in a covered sports pavilion was surprised by guerrillas firing homemade explosives and grenades. A corporal and 10 other soldiers died during the attack by a unit of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, the army’s 3rd Division said.

Santos condemned the attack, which he said was premeditated and not the result of any army incursion. He said he had lifted a month-old suspension on aerial bombings of FARC camps that had been trumpeted as a major milestone in the effort to end a half century of fighting.

“Let it be very clear to the FARC: I’m not going let myself be pressured by vile acts like this,” Santos said, flanked by his top military commanders as he read from a prepared statement in Cali, where he traveled to oversee operations in the combat zone to apprehend the attackers. The rebel movement re-

sponded by demanding the government initiate its own cease-fire and urging Colombia’s leaders to “keep cool” and avoid any “ill-considered actions that could jeopardize the progress of the talks. The

leadership’s command has been less than complete, the latest attack was the most serious breach to date and could destroy momentum toward a deal that had been building since the FARC shocked



Colombia’s President Juan Manuel Santos waves after delivering a speech in Panama City. Colombia’s president ordered, on Wednesday, April 15, 2015, the resumption of air raids on rebel camps after an attack by leftist guerrillas killed 11 soldiers and wounded 19, jeopardizing progress in two-year-old peace talks.

(AP Photo/Moises Castillo)

FARC’s statement said the incident resulted from the “permanent offensive by government troops against our units.”

Colombians took to social media to denounce the attack and urge Santos to abandon the peace talks being held in Havana.

“Santos, don’t betray us anymore,” former President Alvaro Uribe, a fierce critic of the negotiations, said on Twitter. “Don’t justify the murder of our soldiers with this talk of war you want to end.”

FARC negotiators in Cuba committed in December to a unilateral cease-fire to promote peace talks that have taken place on the communist-led island over the past two years, saying the rebels would fire weapons only if attacked by the military.

While adherence to the

many Colombians in November by releasing an army general that its guerrillas had accidentally captured. Last month, both sides agreed on a plan to begin jointly removing unexploded land mines that litter large parts of the countryside. Soon afterward, the government suspended all aerial bombings of guerrilla camps, an order that Santos extended this month. Such good-faith gestures are seen as crucial in rallying support for a deal when some of the thorniest issues, such as whether rebel leaders will serve time in jail for atrocities and the fate of U.S. drug indictments against the FARC’s leadership, remain to be negotiated. The two sides have reached deals on land reform and political participation for former rebels.

Ex-Colombia ministers convicted of bribes on behalf of Uribe

JACOBO GARCIA

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Colombia's Supreme Court convicted two close aides of former President Alvaro Uribe on Wednesday of bribing lawmakers to support the conservative leader's 2006 re-election. Former Interior Minister Sa-bas Pretelt and Social Protection Minister Diego Palacio were each sentenced

to more than six years in jail. A former congresswoman in 2008 accused the Uribe aides of offering her favors and political appointments in exchange for supporting the lifting of a constitutional ban on presidential re-election. The legislation was approved and Uribe became the first Colombian president in over 100 years to stand for re-election, winning easily thanks

to his U.S.-backed military offensive against leftist rebels. The congresswoman, Yidis Medina, was a Uribe supporter but revealed her misgivings in a 2008 interview, saying the president's aides failed to deliver on a promise to name allies to key administrative positions. Uribe is being looked at in the same case by a congressional committee responsible for investigat-

ing former presidents. Pretelt and Palacio join a half dozen other top Uribe aides, including his former agriculture minister and a peace commissioner, who have either been convicted or are under investigation for corruption and ethical breaches. All claim their innocence and say they are victims of political persecution by President Juan Manuel Santos, who suc-

ceeded Uribe in 2010. On Friday, the Supreme Court is expected to hand down sentences in the case of two other Uribe aides, including his chief of staff and the former head of Colombia's intelligence agency, for organizing a spying ring that illegally intercepted the communications of some of the conservative leader's top opponents. □

Cubans to open talks about US fugitives as ties warm

M. WEISSENSTEIN

M. LEE

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — The U.S. and Cuba will open talks about two of America's most-wanted fugitives as part of a new dialogue about law-enforcement cooperation made possible by President Barack Obama's decision to remove Cuba from a list of state sponsors of terror, the State Department announced Wednesday. Cuban officials and ordinary citizens alike hailed Obama's action to remove the island from the list, saying it heals a decades-old insult to national pride and clears the way to swiftly restore diplomatic relations. State Department spokesman Jeff Rathke said Cuba had agreed to talks about fugitives including Joanne Chesimard, aka Assata Shakur, who was granted asylum by Fidel Castro after she escaped from a U.S. prison where she was serving a sentence for killing a

New Jersey state trooper in 1973. The U.S. and Cuba

in New York in the 1970s. "We see the reestablish-

be able, more effectively, to press the Cuban govern-

dialogue with the United States that will work to resolve these cases," Rathke said.

The dialogue is also expected to address cooperation on more routine crimes, officials said.

A Cuban government spokesman did not immediately return calls seeking comment Wednesday, but Josefina Vidal, Cuba's top diplomat for U.S. affairs, recently ruled out any return of political refugees.

Still she said Tuesday night that "the Cuban government recognizes the president of the United States' just decision to take Cuba off a list in which it should never have been included."

Cuban and U.S. foreign-policy experts said the two governments appeared to have taken a major leap toward the reopening of embassies in Havana and Washington after four months of complex and occasionally frustrating negotiations. □



People play chess at a club in Santiago, Cuba. The "Ajedrez Jose Raul Capablanca" chess house is a club exclusively for chess playing, open to both men and women, and is adjunct to the Cathedral. The U.S. and Cuba will open talks about two of America's most-wanted fugitives, the State Department announced Wednesday.

(AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

will also discuss the case of William Morales, a Puerto Rican nationalist wanted in connection with bombings

ment of diplomatic relations and the reopening of an embassy in Havana as the means by which we'll

ment on law enforcement issues such as fugitives. And Cuba has agreed to enter into a law enforcement

Gun found in probe into Argentine prosecutor death

A. CALATRAVA

Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — The discovery of a gun in a storage area raised new questions Wednesday about the death of prosecutor Alberto Nisman, a mystery that has rocked Argentina.

Nisman's former wife, Sandra Arroyo Salgado, said the discovery of the prosecutor's own weapon bolsters her contention that he did not take his own life since he wouldn't have needed to borrow the pis-

tol that did kill him. The death gun was owned by Nisman aide Diego Lagomarsino, a computer technician who has said Nisman asked to borrow the weapon because he feared for his life and that of his daughters. Investigators say Lagomarsino is not a suspect. "This changes the investigation," Arroyo Salgado told local station Radio Mitre in talking about the discovery of Nisman's pistol. Lead investigator Viviana Fein disagreed. "It doesn't

change the investigation at all" because it wasn't the weapon that killed Nisman, Fein told radio Vorterix. Investigators say they have not yet determined whether Nisman killed himself or was slain by someone else a few days after he had accused the president of covering up blame for the country's deadliest terror attack. Arroyo Salgado and Fein have frequently fought, via declarations to local media, about the investiga-

tion. Arroyo Salgado has criticized the slow pace of the probe, and hired her own forensic team to comb Nisman's apartment. That team concluded Nisman was killed. Nisman's mother, Sara Garfunkel, found the gun recently in a storage room with her son's things and told Fein about it late Tuesday during sworn declarations. Nearly three months since Nisman was found dead Jan. 18 nobody has been arrested.

Nisman, who for a decade oversaw the investigation into the 1994 bombing of a Jewish community center, launched allegations a few days before he died that President Cristina Fernandez had helped Iranian officials cover up their alleged role in the attack. Fernandez has denied the allegations and Iran has long denied any role in the bombing, which killed 85 people. A judge recently rejected Nisman's report laying out his accusations against the president. □



Radisson Resort Hosts Aruba's 3rd Annual Tattoo Convention



PALM BEACH - Last weekend Aruba's 3rd Tattoo convention took place in the ballroom of the Radisson Resort and Casino. This year's convention, as the previous years before, was well attended by a large crowd who came to witness the event, either to admire the work of arts be-

ing done by our local and international artists or just getting some ink done as well. Artists from all over the world like the United States, Venezuela, Curacao and the Netherlands came to show off their amazing skills on skin at this year's convention. And of course, not to forget, there were the

local artists as well, demonstrating their high level of work and showing what they are capable of. As a special guest and attraction was Matt Gone, "The checker man" who's body is 99% covered with

checked flag style ink, as seen on "Ripley's believe it or not" show.

To cover up some of the buzzing sound coming from the tattoo machines were live bands by the names of "Earplugs" and "Banzaai" who both gave an amazing performance to entertain the public with some rock alternative music to ease off the pain a bit, for those who were under the needle. If you missed it this year, look forward for the next one to come, Aruba's tattoo convention, the place where tattoo lovers meet. Don't miss it. □

Loyal Visitors Honored at the Marriott Surf Club



PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring two very nice couples whom are loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, at the Marriott Surf Club as Distinguished Visitors and Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 and 20-or-more consecutive years.

The honorees were Mr. Steven and Mrs. Randi Regenstein from Weston, Connecticut and Mr. Robert and Mrs. Barbara Hamilton from Fairfield, New Jersey. Both couples are loyal members of the Marriott Surf Club and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, relaxation and being on Aruba and staying at the Surf Club is like being home for them. The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Ms. Jenny Boekhoudt and Mr. John van der Linden representing the Marriott Surf Club. □



Cataldo Family Honored at the Marriott Ocean Club



PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple who are loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba, as Ambassadors of Goodwill, at the Marriott Ocean Club. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. Michael and Mrs.

Joan Cataldo from Shelton, Connecticut. Michael and Joan are loyal members of the Marriott Ocean Club, and they love Aruba for the climate, beaches, safety, restaurants but most of all they love the friendly Aruban people. The certificate was presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Ms. Yvonne Huen representing the Marriott Ocean Club. □

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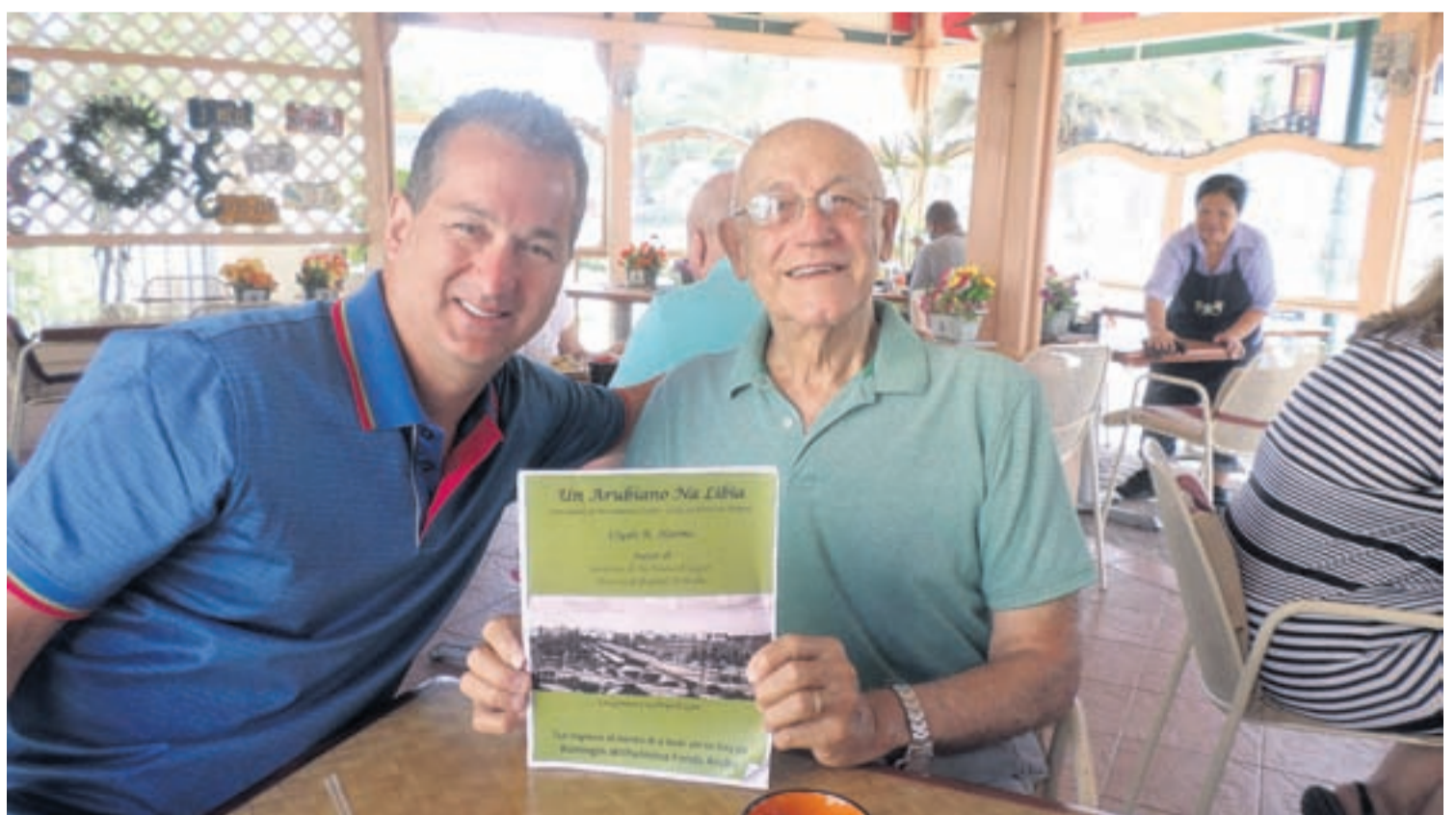
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Friends From Libya During The Ghaddafi Era Meet In Aruba

BY CLYDE HARMS

ORANJESTAD - Charlie Clark, now a senior pilot with American Airlines was a 10 year old boy when his father, Roy Clark, was transferred from Mene Grande in Venezuela to Tripoli, Libya a few months after Ghaddafi had toppled the King Idris government. Charlie entered the Oil Companies School and was placed in the same class as my son of the same age and the two became very good friends. By coincidence, the Clark family moved into a house near where the Harms family lived and the families, with similar oil company backgrounds, established a friendship that has lasted through the decades. Last week Charlie came to Aruba on a short vacation and the two friends of different generations, "survivors of the Ghaddafi era in Tripoli," got together



at Aromid'Italia and reminisced. Charlie was happy to see the manuscript of my book, An Aruban In

Libya, to be published later this year. Charlie had not been to Aruba in almost twenty years, but has been

impressed with the island and plans to return before the end of this year, probably in the summer when the

children are on vacation. Charlie, ahlanwassahlan, Bon Bini to Aruba. clydeharms@yahoo.com

Ferraris Family Honored at the Divi Phoenix Resort



PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple as Distinguished Visitors at the Aruba Divi Phoenix. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name

of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. Garry and Virginia Ferraris from Knoxville, Tennessee. Garry and Virginia are loy-

al members of the Aruba Divi Phoenix and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, the stunning view of their room and Aruba feels like a second home, the

people are like a family to them and the Divi Phoenix is their home away from home. The certificates were presented by Mr. Er-

nest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mrs. Avril Culley representing the Divi Phoenix. □

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood! Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "from the pier to your plate!"



ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fisherman of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad. Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on 12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm.



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extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95 **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 www.driftwoodaruba.com Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.



In this March 28, 2015, file photo, Serena Williams celebrates after winning a game against Monica Niculescu, of Romania, during their match at the Miami Open tennis tournament in Key Biscayne, Fla.

Associated Press

Serena Williams could be asked to play 3 matches in two days

ANDREW DAMPF
AP Sports Writer

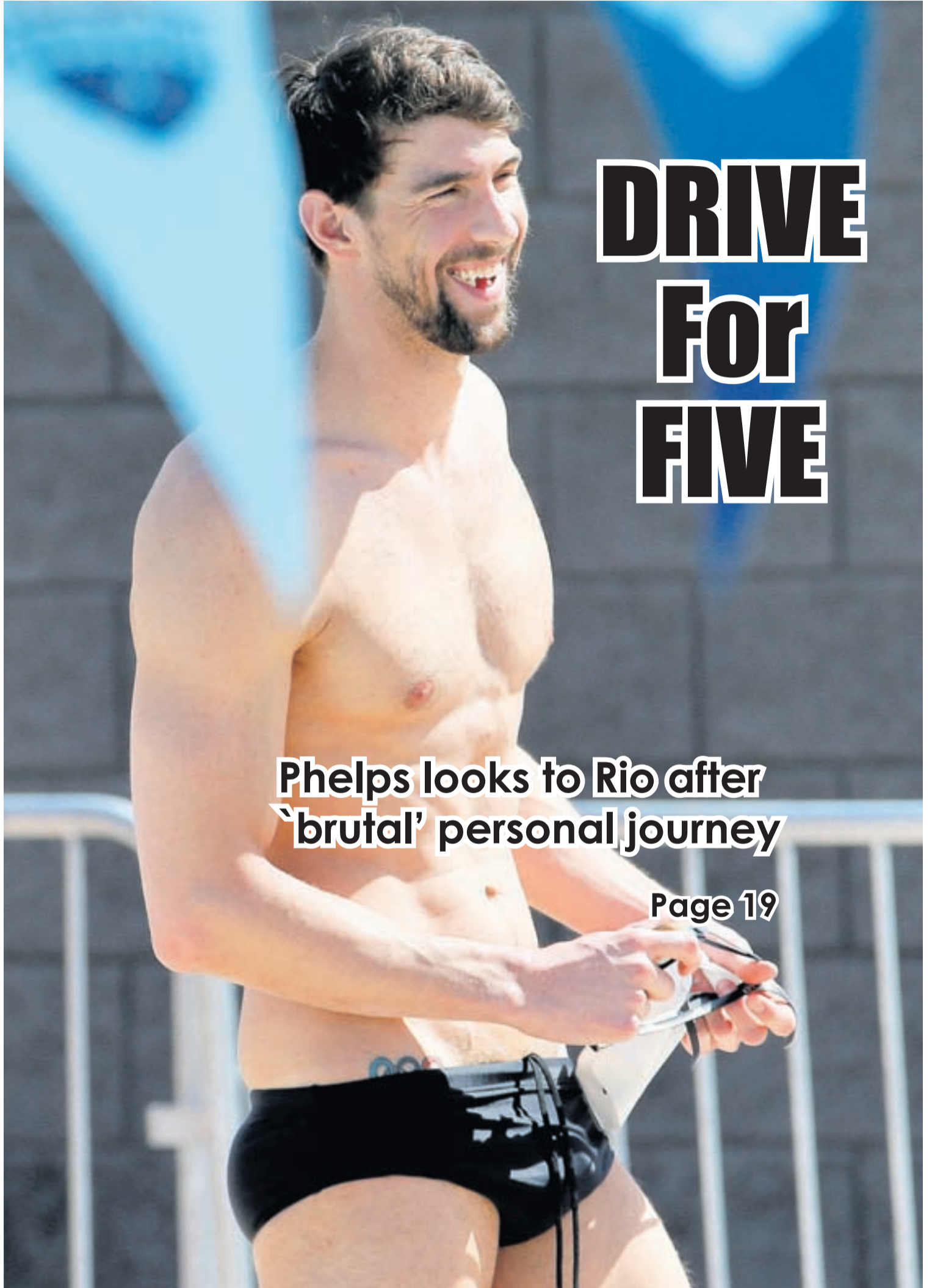
ROME (AP) — Serena Williams has been virtually unbeatable this year.

The top-ranked player could face quite a challenge this weekend, though, when she may have to play three matches in two days before a hostile crowd on slow red clay against Italy in a Fed Cup World Group playoff.

"I think she's excited about starting her clay-court season early and getting ready for the French Open," U.S. Fed Cup captain Mary Joe Fernandez told The Associated Press on Tuesday from Brindisi, the town in southern Italy that is hosting the match. With sister Venus Williams withdrawing from the team because of a personal matter, Serena will be expected to carry a squad that also features 45th-ranked Alison Riske, No. 57 Lauren Davis and No. 65 Christina McHale.

Besides playing two singles matches in the best-of-five series, Fernandez said Serena will also play doubles if the match is tied 2-2 Sunday.

Continued on Next Page



**DRIVE
For
FIVE**

Phelps looks to Rio after 'brutal' personal journey

Page 19

Michael Phelps prepares to enter the pool prior to swimming laps during a practice session, Wednesday, April 15, 2015, in Mesa, Ariz. The 18-time Olympic champion will compete in the Area Pro Swim Series after serving a six-month suspension for DUI.

Associated Press

Nadal, Federer, Wawrinka ease into Monte Carlo 3rd round

SAMUEL PETREQUIN

AP Sports Writer

MONACO (AP) — Rafael Nadal is back on the clay he loves so much, and he looks like his old self again. Nadal, who has a mediocre 16-5 record this year, got the flawless start he was hoping for Wednesday at the Monte Carlo Masters, beating 21-year-old wild-card entry Lucas Pouille 6-2, 6-1 in the second round.

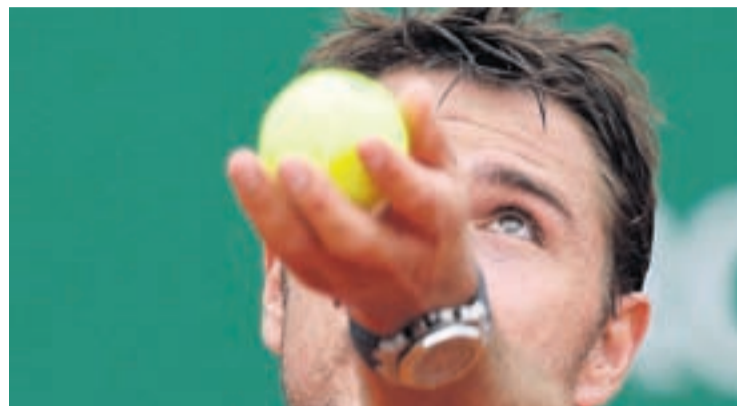
"Today I (will) go back to the hotel with a fantastic feeling because I played probably (my) best match of the year," Nadal said. The switch to clay was also enjoyable for second-seeded Roger Federer and defending champion Stan Wawrinka, who won his maiden Masters tournament last year at the Country Club.

Nadal won eight consecutive titles in Monte Carlo from 2005-12 but has been struggling recently, dropping to fifth in the rankings. Now in the European clay-court season, the nine-time French Open champion is biding to regain his old form ahead of another shot at the title at Roland Garros.

After recovering from a wrist injury and an appen-

dectomy, Nadal lost in the quarterfinals at the Australian Open. He then enjoyed a good week in Buenos Aires, where he won the title, but struggled on the hard courts of Indian Wells and Miami.

Following his loss to Fernando Verdasco in Florida,



Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland serves the ball to Juan Monaco of Argentina during their match of the Monte Carlo Tennis Masters tournament in Monaco, Wednesday, April 15, 2015. Associated Press

Nadal returned home to practice and changed his racket. He said he had thought about the change for a while but could not start playing with the new model earlier because it was not ready.

"With this new racket, I have less control," Nadal said. "Not today. In theory I have less control. In theory I have more power and more spin."

On Wednesday, the 14-

time Grand Slam champion was in total control. He limited his mistakes to five unforced errors and did not face a single break point against an opponent ranked 108th by the ATP.

"I played with the right mentality, the right concentration," Nadal said. "I

didn't make (consecutive) mistakes, something that happened the last couple months with me. I fixed that today."

A forehand passing shot gave Nadal a 3-1 lead in the second set, and he broke again in the sixth game before serving out the match at love.

Pouille was impressed.

"His balls are different from any other player. They have this spin, plus

they bounce a lot higher," Pouille said. "He was able to take advantage of my weaknesses. He was very solid and he played better and better as the match went on."

Nadal will face a trickier test in the next round against big-serving John Isner, who lost a memorable five-setter to the Spaniard in the first round of the 2011 French Open.

"He is a very dangerous player on any surface because his serve works well on clay, hard, indoor, everywhere," Nadal said.

The seventh-seeded Wawrinka produced a convincing 6-1, 6-4 win over clay-court specialist Juan Monaco to join Nadal in the third round, while Federer spent less than one hour on court in a 6-2, 6-1 win over Jeremy Chardy.

Federer, who has changed his schedule this year to allow more time for recovery and training, played his first match since his loss in the Indian Wells final in March. He did not look rusty, hitting 19 winners to dispatch an opponent who beat him last year in Rome.

"It's difficult to make any kind of judgment after a 55minute match, but I'm

feeling good at training," said Federer, a four-time runner-up in Monte Carlo.

The 17-time major champion takes on Gael Monfils for a spot in the quarterfinals, just five months after the Frenchman beat him in straight sets in the Davis Cup final.

"The preparation is different. Instead of playing just one hour before a match on clay, this time I had 10 days and I'm better prepared. I feel more confident than I was in Lille," Federer said.

Against Monaco, Wawrinka won 15 of the first 20 points and broke twice to build a 5-1 lead before serving out the first set at love. After conceding only two points on his serve in the opener, Wawrinka was made to work harder in a second set featuring five breaks of serve.

Wawrinka, who arrived in Monte Carlo on the back of early losses at Indian Wells and Miami, is hoping for better results on clay ahead of the French Open.

"The past two months were really difficult, both with my game and confidence," Wawrinka said. "But I have much ambition for this clay-court season." □

Serena Williams

Continued from Page 17

Serena's only loss this year came when she withdrew before the Indian Wells semifinal last month with a knee injury. She opened the year by winning the Australian Open for her 19th Grand Slam title and won another hard-court trophy in Miami earlier this month, in dominating fashion.

"She's been playing well and had a really good final in Miami," Fernandez said. "It's funny because the French is the one she's won the fewest majors in but she actually loves clay. She loves the challenge of it and every time we've had a Fed Cup at home



In this March 30, 2015, file photo, Serena Williams returns the ball to Svetlana Kuznetsova during their match at the Miami Open tennis tournament in Key Biscayne, Fla. Associated Press

she asks, 'Can we play it on clay?' And I look at her like, 'Really? You want to play on clay?'"

Serena has an 11-0 career Fed Cup singles record and is 3-0 in doubles. She played on clay in Fed Cup earlier this year against Argentina in Buenos Aires, where she defeated 209th-ranked

Maria Irigoyen, 7-5, 6-0. But Italy has proved a tough matchup for the U.S. recently, with the Italians having won all four of their meetings in the last six years, including back-to-back finals in 2009 and 2010.

The Italian team for this weekend features No. 15 Sara Errani, No. 26 Flavia

Pennetta, No. 36 Camila Giorgi and No. 55 Karin Knapp. The Italians are without Roberta Vinci, who has an inflamed right elbow, although they could get an emotional boost from Pennetta, who will be playing in her hometown.

"They've been really good for the last five or six years," Fernandez said. "They have a lot of depth and a lot of variety."

McHale or Davis, who reached the quarterfinals in Charleston, South Carolina, last week, will likely take the Americans' second singles slot.

"Christina has always played well in Fed Cup and clay is probably one of her favorite surfaces," Fernandez said. "Ali is more of a faster-court player but a great doubles player. But with Lauren playing so well last week on the clay,

beating (Eugenie) Bouchard and being confident, it could really be up for grabs.

"So as we get closer we'll take a look at it more closely and see the head-to-heads and go from there." Fernandez said she asked rising American standouts Madison Keys and Sloane Stephens — ranked No. 17 and 39, respectively — to play but both declined.

Declined invitations are nothing new to Fernandez, though, and she's excited about seeing 13 Americans in the top 100 of the rankings.

"When I started about six years ago I think we only had three Americans in the top 100," Fernandez said. "I think in the next five years we're going to see even more strides and even more progress, so I think we have exciting times ahead." □

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Michael Phelps confirms he's aiming for 5th Olympics in Rio

BETH HARRIS

AP Sports Writer

MESA, Ariz. (AP) — Michael Phelps is aiming to compete in a fifth Olympics next year in Rio, although the 18-time Olympic champion won't swim in the world championships this summer.

Phelps confirmed his intention to make one last run at the Olympics on Wednesday.

"You guys heard it here first," he told reporters at Skyline Aquatic Center, where he will be competing in his first meet since serving a six-month suspension by USA Swimming after a second drunken driving arrest last fall. "I am looking forward to next year. I don't think it's too hard to really realize why I came back."

But Phelps said he won't be swimming at the world meet in Russia in August as part of the punishment set forth by the sport's U.S. governing body. He had already qualified in three events before being banned from the last major international meet before the Rio de Janeiro Olympics.

"I really enjoy being on those trips," he said. "That's why it is painful to think that I won't have the chance to compete at worlds."

There had been informal discussions about Phelps being reinstated to the U.S. team for worlds, but it would have meant removing swimmers that were named to the team in his absence.

"By no means do I want this to be a distraction from the team," he said. "No way would I ever want to displace a member of that team."

Phelps is back in Arizona, where he attended 45 days of inpatient alcohol

rehabilitation after being arrested on DUI charges in his hometown of Baltimore last September. He offered no specifics about his treatment, which he continued in Maryland. He also enrolled in Alcoholics Anony-

ing up in recent months than he has in his entire life. "I have been able to come out on a better end, have a clear head," he said. "I don't think I've ever been like this once in my life." Phelps' longtime coach,

heard from Phelps away from the pool. Bowman visited Phelps during treatment, still skeptical that the swimmer was there for any reason other than he had to be. But Bowman left thinking differently.

three-month suspension and caused some sponsors to drop him.

Phelps knows not everyone will believe he's contrite and has changed.

"If somebody doesn't believe the words that are coming out of my mouth that's their choice," he said. "I, of course, would like to show everybody in the world that I am in a different place and I am much better than I ever have been. I understand that's going to take a lot of time. This week will be the first week that I can start that."

Phelps will be competing in Mesa for the first time since the Pan Pacific Championships last August. The Arizona meet was where Phelps made his comeback a year ago after an extended retirement following the 2012 Olympics.

He isn't sure what to expect, having only recently returned to the kind of hard training he did before the 2008 Beijing Games, where he won a record eight gold medals. Phelps is falling back on the mentality he used for much of his career.

"I would just get up and swim as hard as I could and leave it in the water," he said. "That's what I'm going to do here. I know I'm more prepared now than I was at this time last year."

His first event is the 100-meter butterfly on Thursday, when he'll compete against longtime rival Ryan Lochte.

Phelps is surrounding himself with familiar faces this week, including his fiancée Nicole Johnson and family members.

"I'm a lot happier and in a lot better state and in a lot better physical shape than I really have been in a long time," he said. □



Michael Phelps swims laps during a practice session, Wednesday, April 15, 2015, in Mesa, Ariz. The 18-time Olympic champion will compete in the Area Pro Swim Series after serving a six-month suspension for DUI.

Associated Press

mous.

"The last couple of months have probably been the hardest I've ever had to go through in my entire life," he said. "I take full responsibility for all of my actions. I've hurt a lot of people and it's been terrible."

The 29-year-old swimmer was sentenced to 18 months of probation. He said he's done more grow-

Bob Bowman, acknowledged his star swimmer's second arrest for drunken driving made it "pretty hard to convince me that anything was going to lead us back to something that we'd be proud of."

Phelps called Bowman a few times from rehab, which the coach described as "really weird" because he typically never

"I just had no doubt that he had changed in a way that was really meaningful," Bowman said. "He was completely different and it's been that way every day since he's been back." Phelps pleaded guilty after his first drunken driving arrest in 2004. Five years later, a photo was published of him using a marijuana pipe at a party, which drew a

AL Capsules

Red Sox capitalize on poor fielding, top Nats 8-7

BOSTON (AP) — Two errors by pitcher Blake Treinen allowed Boston to erase a seventh-inning deficit as the Red Sox won 8-7 on Tuesday night as the Washington Nationals struggled in the field for the second straight game.

Boston went ahead with three unearned runs without a hit in the inning, which included three errors.

Treinen (0-1) fielded Ryan Hanigan's bouncer in front of the plate, dropped the ball as Ramirez scored, then threw it past catcher Wilson Ramos as Victorino came home with the tying run. Craig scored the go-ahead run on Brock Holt's ground-out.

Edward Mujica (1-0) got the win and Koji Uehara got his first save, one day after being activated from the disabled list. Nationals starter Stephen Strasburg allowed five runs and 10 hits in 5 1-3 innings, leaving him with a 6.75 ERA.

ORIOLES 4, YANKEES 3

BALTIMORE (AP) — Miguel Gonzalez (1-1) struck out a career-high 10 batters over seven innings, allowing one



Boston Red Sox's Daniel Nava slides under the tag of Washington Nationals third baseman Yunel Escobar as he advances to third on a single by Ryan Hanigan in the third inning of a baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston, Tuesday, April 14, 2015.
Associated Press

run and four hits.

Adam Jones homered and drove in two runs for the Orioles, and Zach Britton got four outs for his second save. CC Sabathia (0-2) yielded four runs and seven hits in seven innings/ Although he is 18-7 against the Orioles, the left-hander is 0-5 with a 5.48 ERA in his last seven starts in Baltimore.

RAYS 3, BLUE JAYS 2

TORONTO (AP) — Desmond Jennings hit a tiebreaking

sacrifice fly in the eighth inning off Miguel Castro (0-1), helping Tampa Bay to its fourth straight win.

Steven Souza homered in the first inning and, with the score 2-all, reached on a bunt single off leading off the eighth.

Steve Geltz (1-0) pitched 1 1-3 innings for his first major league win. Kevin Jepsen pitched a hitless ninth for his first save this year.

WHITE SOX 4, INDIANS 1

CLEVELAND (AP) — Indians pitcher Carlos Carrasco (1-1) was struck in the face by Melky Cabrera's first-inning line drive and carted off the field. The Indians said X-rays of Carrasco, the club's No. 2 starter, were negative and he was being treated at Lutheran Hospital for a bruised jaw.

Jose Quintana (1-0) allowed three hits in six innings, struck out six and improved to 4-0 in 10 starts against the Indians. David Robertson struck out the side in the ninth for his second save.

Jose Abreu hit his second homer in the fifth for a 4-1 lead, giving Quintana more cushion than he would need. Cleveland managed just three hits and dropped its fourth straight.

RANGERS 8, ANGELS 2

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Robinson Chirinos had a career-high five RBIs with a home run and double. Elvis Andrus homered the sixth — Andrus had not homered in 481 at-bats since connecting May 21, the longest active homerless streak in the majors. Nick Martinez (2-0) allowed one

run — unearned — and five hits in seven innings, improving to 2-7 in home games in his season-plus big league career. Drew Rucinski (0-1), who made his big league debut last year, gave up four runs, six hits and four walks in 2 2-3 innings in his first major league start.

ATHLETICS 4, ASTROS 0

HOUSTON (AP) — Rookie Kendall Graveman (1-1) yielded four hits in 5 1-3 innings for his first major league win, and four relievers completed the shutout.

Oakland led 1-0 in the sixth inning before an RBI double by Billy Butler that gave him the AL's only nine-game hitting streak.

Brad Peacock (0-1) allowed three runs and five hits in five-plus innings. He was activated from the disabled list following offseason hip surgery.

In other AL games it was Boston 8, Washington 7; Detroit 2, Pittsburgh 0; Baltimore 4, N.Y. Yankees 3; Tampa Bay 3, Toronto 2; Chicago White Sox 4, Cleveland 1; Texas 8, L.A. Angels 2; Oakland 4, Houston 0; and L.A. Dodgers 6, Seattle 5. □

NL Capsules

Greene throws 8 strong innings as Tigers beat Pirates 2-0



Detroit Tigers starter Shane Greene watches a pitch to Pittsburgh Pirates' Francisco Cervelli during the third inning of a baseball game in Pittsburgh on Tuesday, April 14, 2015.
Associated Press

TIGERS 2, PIRATES 0

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Shane Greene (2-0) allowed three hits over eight innings, including a pair of infield singles, as Detroit rebounded from its first loss to improve to 7-1.

Greene has allowed only one unearned run in 16 innings through his first two starts.

Rajai Davis singled in the tie-breaking run in the seventh off A.J. Burnett (0-1), and Ian Kinsler add an RBI single in the eighth.

Joakim Soria pitched a perfect ninth for his third save.

METS 6, PHILLIES 5

NEW YORK (AP) — Matt Harvey won his first home start in almost 20 months, and Lucas Duda hit a three-run

double.

Daniel Murphy homered over the right-center fence that was brought in 3 to 11 feet this season at Citi Field. But it wasn't all good news for New York: David Wright (right hamstring) and Michael Cuddyer (bruised left hand) left with injuries.

Chase Utley homered twice for Philadelphia and hit an RBI single after entering 2 for 22 (.091). He also was hit in the back by a 95 mph fastball from Harvey (2-0) — after Phillies starter David Buchanan (0-2) plunked Wilmer Flores and Cuddyer in the second, both on the left hand.

Harvey (2-0), back from Tommy John surgery, gave up three runs and five hits in six innings with eight strikeouts.

MARLINS 8, BRAVES 2

ATLANTA (AP) — Giancarlo Stanton broke out of a slump with three hits and four RBIs as Miami improved to 2-6. Stanton, who signed a record 13-year, \$325 million contract in November, began the game hitting just .130 with three RBIs in 23 at-bats.

Tom Koehler (1-1) gave up six hits, two runs and two walks with three strikeouts in 5 1-3 innings. Making his first start for Atlanta, Trevor Cahill (0-1) allowed four runs and five hits in 2 1-3 innings.

REDS 3, CUBS 2

CHICAGO (AP) — Anthony DeSclafani (1-0) earned his first win for Cincinnati, allowing two hits in seven scoreless innings.

Aroldis Chapman pitched the ninth for his third save, stopping the Reds' three-game losing streak.

Joey Votto had two hits and drove in a run.

Pinch-hitter Wellington Castillo hit a two-run homer in the eighth off former Cubs closer Kevin Gregg, Jake Arrieta (1-1) gave up three runs and seven hits in 6 2-3 innings.

PADRES 5, DIAMONDBACKS 1

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Odriamer Despaigne pitched seven strong innings to help the Padres beat the Diamondbacks. Despaigne (1-0) kept the Diamondbacks off-balance with an array of pitches from various arm angles. He allowed one run, two hits, two walks and one hit batter. He struck out three and at one point retired 10 straight batters. He was starting for the first time this season in place of the injured Ian Kennedy. □

NBA Capsules

Pacers survive scare with 99-95 2OT win over Wizards



Indiana Pacers guard C.J. Miles celebrates during the second overtime period of an NBA basketball game against the Washington Wizards in Indianapolis, Tuesday, April 14, 2015. The Pacers defeated the Wizards 99-95 in double overtime. Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — C.J. Miles scored 25 points and George Hill added 24, and together they keyed a 7-2 spurt to open the second overtime Tuesday as Indiana kept its playoff hopes alive with a 99-95 victory over Washington. The Pacers (38-43) have won six straight and will make a fifth straight playoff appearance if they win at Memphis — or if Brooklyn loses to Orlando — on the final night of the regular season. Martin Gortat and Bradley Beal each scored 19 points for the Wizards (46-35). It was a grind for the Pacers, who struggled shooting all night and trailed 70-

61 deficit with 7:07 left. They rallied to take a late 79-75 lead, then Washington forced overtime. Indiana didn't lead again until Hill's mid-range jumper 23 seconds into the second overtime made it 87-85. And Hill finally sealed it with a 3 with 27.8 seconds left. **CLIPPERS 112, SUNS 101** **PHOENIX (AP)** — Chris Paul's 22 points, including six 3-pointers, led the Clippers over the injury-depleted Suns in LA's final regular-season game before the NBA playoffs. The Clippers clinched the West's No. 3 seed with the win. Blake Griffin hit his first six shots on his way to 20

points as Clippers coach Doc Rivers played his starters major minutes with a higher playoff seeding on the line. DeAndre Jordan had 13 points and 14 rebounds, setting the Clippers' single-season record for rebounds in a season. Los Angeles (56-26) can finish with the No. 2 seed if the San Antonio Spurs and Houston Rockets lose their final games Wednesday. The Suns were down to eight available players, Archie Goodwin leading Phoenix with a season-high 18 points. **CELTICS 95, RAPTORS 93** **BOSTON (AP)** — Jae Crowder hit an off-balance fall-away from deep

on the right wing with .8 seconds left that secured the seventh seed in the Eastern Conference for the Celtics. Evan Turner and Avery Bradley each scored 14 points for Boston, which will face No. 2 seed Cleveland in the playoffs. Brandon Bass added 13 points and nine rebounds. It was the fifth straight win for the Celtics, who

clinched a playoff spot on Monday when Brooklyn lost. Kyle Lowry had 16 points for the Raptors, who are locked into the fourth seed and will face Washington. Toronto beat the Wizards in all three meetings this season. Lou Williams also had 16 points for Toronto, Terrence Ross scored 12 and Jonas Valanciunas' 11. □



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APRIL 16

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Disney Nature Monkey Kingdom
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MON-THURS 4:30 | 6:30 | 8:30
FRI 4:30 | 6:30 | 8:30 | 10:30
SAT 2:30 | 4:30 | 6:30 | 8:30 | 10:30
SUN & HOL 2:30 | 4:30 | 6:30 | 8:30



KEVIN JAMES | RAINI RODRIGUEZ
PAUL BLART MALL COP 2
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG]
MON-THURS 4:40 | 6:50 | 9:10
FRI 4:40 | 6:50 | 9:10 | 11:20
SAT 2:30 | 4:40 | 6:50 | 9:10 | 11:20
SUN & HOL 2:30 | 4:40 | 6:50 | 9:10



SCOTT EASTWOOD | BRITT ROBERTSON
THE LONGEST RIDE [PG-13]
MON-THURS 6:00 | 8:45
FRI 6:00 | 8:45 | 11:30
SAT 3:15 | 6:00 | 8:45 | 11:30
SUN & HOL 3:15 | 6:00 | 8:45

ALSO SHOWING!



SHAILENE WOODLEY | ANSEL ELGORT
THE DIVERGENT SERIES: INSURGENT [PG-13]
MON-THURS 9:30
FRI 9:30 | 12:05
SAT 9:30 | 12:05
SUN & HOL 9:30



VIN DIESEL | PAUL WALKER
FURIOUS 7
ON TWO SCREENS
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
3D VERSION [PG-13]
MON-THURS 5:15 | 8:15
FRI 5:15 | 8:15 | 11:15
SAT 2:15 | 5:15 | 8:15 | 11:15
SUN & HOL 2:15 | 5:15 | 8:15
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
2D VERSION
MON-THURS 4:30 | 7:30
FRI 4:30 | 7:30 | 10:30
SAT 1:30 | 4:30 | 7:30 | 10:30
SUN & HOL 1:30 | 4:30 | 7:30

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Masters champion Spieth back to work at RBC Heritage

PETE IACOBELLI
AP Sports Writer

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, South Carolina (AP) — Masters champion Jordan Spieth is back to work this week at the RBC Heritage Classic after two days celebrating his victory at Augusta National and being showered with attention.

Spieth arrived at Sea Pines Resort late Tuesday night after a media whirlwind in New York since tying Tiger Woods' Masters record of 18-under 270 to capture the green jacket. The 21-year-old said it was a dizzying stretch with 26 appearances and interviews in 25 hours.

"It was a little crazy in New York having paparazzi know where we were going to eat dinner even though we never told anybody," Spieth said Wednesday. Spieth doesn't believe the success will change him. In fact, he said he upheld his commitment to the RBC Heritage in part to chase down Rory McIlroy for world No. 1.

"I wouldn't come to a tournament just to come to a tournament, especially with that goal still in mind," said Spieth, who moved to No. 2 in the world rankings with



Jordan Spieth reacts to making his par putt on the 16th green closing in on the green jacket winning the Masters at Augusta National Golf Club on Sunday, April 12, 2015, in Augusta, Ga.

Associated Press

the Masters' win. Spieth has had two victories and two runner-up finishes in his past four events. He would have liked to have had his normal pre-tournament preparations at Harbour Town Golf Links. Instead, he'll go into his first-round tee time Thursday not having played a hole of practice on the tricky, Pete

Dye-designed layout. "I'm sure Jordan's wiped," said Kevin Streelman, the Par-3 contest winner at Augusta National last week who finished tied for 12th behind Spieth. "But he's 21 years old, he can handle it." Spieth has had success here the previous two years, finishing ninth in 2013

and 12th last year. The RBC Heritage gave him an invite two years ago when Spieth was a rising, yet largely unknown 19-year-old trying to make his way on tour. The top-10 finish, Spieth said, helped his confidence and status on the PGA Tour. "This tournament helped with job security," Spieth said. "So it's a tournament

that's close to me and I love it here."

Most Masters champions — and many of the game's best players — take the next week off after a pressure-packed week at Augusta National. Spieth heads a group of five ranked in the top 20 of the world (No. 10 Jim Furyk, No. 14 Patrick Reed, No. 17 Matt Kuchar and No. 19 Billy Horschel are the others) to compete this week.

Streelman enjoys playing right after a major, knowing his game is honed in and peaking after a Grand Slam event.

"Your game is really primed and amped up," he said. "I'm very prepared."

Kuchar is the tournament's defending champion, holing out from a green-side bunker on the 72nd hole to defeat Luke Donald by a stroke. Spieth's success has him atop the FedEx Cup standings, the youngest player ever to lead that category. There have only been two Masters winners the past 15 years to follow up their victories by playing Harbour Town. Vijay Singh tied for third here in 2000 a week after winning the Masters while Zach Johnson was sixth in 2007. □



Ottawa Senators coach Dave Cameron speaks at a press conference at the Canadian Tire Centre in Ottawa, after the announcement of the death of assistant coach Mark Reeds, Tuesday, April 14, 2015.

Associated Press

OTTAWA, Ontario (AP) — Mark Reeds, an assistant coach for the playoff-bound Ottawa Senators and a former NHL player, died Tuesday. He was at 55. Reeds had been fighting cancer for more than a

year, and the news came as a blow to a team already dealing with general manager Bryan Murray's cancer diagnosis. Owner Eugene Melnyk lauded Reeds' "charismatic fighting spirit ... right until the end." Murray said

Senators assistant coach Mark Reeds dies of cancer at 55

the team lost a "very important member ... of our Senator family."

Reeds had been an assistant in Ottawa since 2011 and before that coached the Owen Sound Attack to an Ontario Hockey League title. He was a fifth-round draft pick of St. Louis in 1979 and played 365 NHL games for the Blues and Hartford Whalers.

"Mark Reeds was the embodiment of commitment to our game," NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman said in a statement. "Mark devoted 35 years to 10 different stops in six different leagues, and the NHL shares the sorrow of all who were touched by his selflessness and dedication." The Senators open the

postseason Wednesday night against Montreal, a game they weren't expected to be playing until a late-season surge resulted in a wild-card spot.

"We're just trying to win," said Kyle Turris. "That's what he (Reeds) wanted. Just to give it our all, to keep winning, to get into the playoffs and just keep doing what we can to win and that's what we're going to try and do for him."

Reeds was remembered for his humor, passion for the game and ability to communicate with players. "I can personally say I'm a better hockey player because of him," Senators captain Erik Karlsson said. "I have a lot of respect for him. He was a great

coach and an even better guy and a friend. He was always happy and he's helped shape this team into what it is."

Senators coach Dave Cameron fought back tears as he spoke of Reeds and what he brought to the team.

"When Mark got sick you had a heavy heart — now it's broke," he said. "Just a terrific father, dad, husband. Very close family. Big part of our success."

Cameron praised Reeds for his "bright hockey mind." "He noticed things in a game that most people wouldn't if they watched the game 10 times, they wouldn't notice about stick placement, positioning, just details," he said. □

This year's fight for the tech industry: Patent trolls

ANNE FLAHERTY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The same week that Alex Haro and Chris Hulls raised \$50 million for their mobile app, Life360, the business partners got a letter. It said they had three days to pay licensing fees to a company they had never heard of because their app violated its patented technology.

Haro and Hulls traced the company, Advanced Ground Information Systems, to a coastal home in Jupiter, Florida, with a phone number that initially went to an anonymous voicemail. They couldn't find any employees on LinkedIn. To Haro, it was "a punch in the gut," he said.

On the other side of that letter was Malcolm "Cap" Beyer, Jr., a 76-year-old who had filed patents a decade ago on cellphone mapping. He said his attorney told him that he had a strong case against the startup, even though the general technology had been widely used for years. Beyer insists the mobile app's \$50 million in fundraising had nothing to do with it.

In the end, a jury sided with Life360 on all counts — but not before Haro and Hulls shelled out nearly \$1.5 million in legal fees.

Congress is expected to take up legislation this year



Life360 co-founder and president Alex Haro poses at his company headquarters in San Francisco, Tuesday, April 14, 2015. The same week that Haro and Chris Hulls raised \$50 million for their mobile app, Life360, the two business partners got a letter.
Associated Press

that would make it tougher for people like Beyer to claim patent infringement, and put them on the hook for legal costs if they lose. The bill has become a top lobbying priority this year for the tech industry, which says it repeatedly fends off frivolous lawsuits because of poorly written software patents and laws that favor patent holders.

But lawmakers have repeatedly stumbled over the issue, which doesn't fall neatly along party lines. America's drugmakers, universities and trial lawyers claim that patents are the lifeblood of American invention and that the current bill goes too far.

On Tuesday, the House will pick up the issue again with a hearing of its Judiciary Committee. Among those

testifying is Keven Kramer, Yahoo's deputy legal counsel, who estimates the company has spent \$100 million fighting bogus patent lawsuits since 2007.

"That's money we could use elsewhere on research and development, people, jobs," he said.

"Patent trolls" generally refer to businesses that buy up patents, particularly in technical areas like computer chips, cloud computing and wireless routers, with the sole intention of filing lawsuits or demanding licensing fees from tech companies, particularly startups around the time of their public offering. Not wanting to pay for a protracted legal fight, the defendants almost always settle even if they think they'd win. Kramer calls it a vicious cycle — the more

companies settle, the more lawsuits are filed.

"It's like a legal version of a mob protection racket," said Noah Theran, a spokesman for the Internet Association, a coalition of web-based companies. "The tactics are different, but the end result is a good, old-fashioned shakedown."

Beyer said in a phone interview last week that he's a defense contractor with more than a dozen employees, not "some vile animal that's filing lawsuits" for sport.

"We are simply just trying to enforce our patent," he said.

Beyer's lawyer, Mark Hannemann, denied allegations by Haro that the law firm used Beyer's patents to try to coerce Life360 into a large, quick settlement. He said the company had sought only \$3 million in damages, "which is not a large amount in a patent case." He also alluded to possibly appealing the case, saying "there is, potentially, a long way to go in the process."

"Mr. Beyer made these inventions years ago and has built AGIS — his third technology company — around them," Hannemann wrote. "The reason we have a patent system is so inventors like Mr. Beyer can protect their inventions."

Enter Congress. Last year, the House passed the "Innovation Act" by House Judiciary Chairman Rep. Bob Goodlatte, R-Va. The bill would toughen requirements when filing patent challenges in court, such as limiting the amount of documentation that can be demanded before a judge makes an initial ruling. The bill also opens the door to a requirement that plaintiffs pay legal bills of the defendants if they lose.

Supporters said they suspect trial lawyers with close ties to then-Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., helped scuttle the bill. Reid is now minority leader with plans to retire next year. Likely to replace him as the Senate's top Democrat is Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. — an advocate of patent reform. President Barack Obama has said he supports patent reform.

Still opposing the bill, however, are pharmaceutical and biotech companies and universities that say the legislation would make it too tough and expensive for them to protect their patents. Haro said he thinks some kind of legislation is necessary, or else the U.S. economy will suffer.

"It shouldn't be so expensive to defend yourself from a completely meritless lawsuit," Haro said. □

China's Ninebot buys U.S. personal scooter maker Segway

KELVIN CHAN
AP Business Writer

HONG KONG (AP) — Segway, the iconic but struggling U.S. maker of self-balancing personal electric scooters, has been bought by a Chinese rival.

Beijing-based Ninebot Inc., which makes a range of short-distance motorized transport devices, said Wednesday that it bought Segway Inc. for an undisclosed amount. It said it received \$80 million from a group of investors to finance the purchase.

Ninebot's purchase of New Hampshire-based Segway is the latest example of a Chinese company ac-

quiring foreign brands or technology. It's also the latest chapter for Segway, which has passed through several owners and generally failed to live up to the great hype surrounding its launch in 2002.

Segway founder Dean Kamen famously promised that his invention would revolutionize transportation, claiming it "will be to the car what the car was to the horse and buggy." But sales of the two-wheeler failed to take off and it earned a goofy reputation thanks to some high-profile mishaps, including President George W. Bush toppling over on one in 2003.

The acquisition comes five months after the U.S. International Trade Commission agreed to investigate Segway's claim that Ninebot and other Chinese companies were infringing on its patents and copyrights. Segway wanted to block imports of competing scooters into the United States but the deal appears to signal a resolution. In a statement issued by Ninebot, Segway President Rod Keller said the "strategic alliance with Ninebot will enable us to provide more intelligent and valuable products for our customers."

Ninebot, which was found-



In this March 8, 2006 file photo, a Chinese man rolls on a Segway during his practice at a parking lot of a club where he sells the personal transporter in Beijing.
Associated Press

ed in 2012, said it received the \$80 million investment from a group including U.S. venture capital firm Sequoia Capital, the Shunwei Foundation and Chinese smartphone maker Xiaomi. Segway was sold in 2009 to

British millionaire entrepreneur James Heselden, who died a year later when he accidentally rode one off a cliff. The company was bought by Summit Strategic Investments LCC in 2013. □

Wall Street rises as earnings roll in

MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Rising corporate profits and a jump in oil prices helped push the stock market to a modest gain on Wednesday. Delta and Intel led the way up after turning in results that beat Wall Street's forecasts. The price of oil soared to its highest

gest gain in the index. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 75.91 points, or 0.4 percent, to 18,112.61, while the Nasdaq composite added 33.73 points, or 0.7 percent, to 5,011.02. Delta Air Lines said its quarterly profit more than tripled as passengers flew more and fuel prices plunged from a year ago. The results

that the bank will stick with its monthly purchases of bonds. A recent run of solid economic data fed speculation that the ECB will ease the pace of its bond-buying, aimed at spurring economic growth. His briefing came after the bank kept its main interest rate unchanged at a record low of 0.05 percent.



Trader Sal Suarino works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Rising corporate profits and a jump in oil prices helped push the stock market to a modest gain on Wednesday.
(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

price this year, driving up energy stocks. For investors, any good news comes as a welcome surprise this earnings season, which is widely expected to be the worst in years. Analysts predict that companies in the S&P 500 will report a 3 percent drop in profits. Most of the blame lies with the slump in oil prices over the past year, which has squeezed oil and gas companies, and a strong dollar, which diminishes the value of profits earned abroad when they're brought back home. "So far, there's no signal that this quarter is really a harbinger of a profit recession," said Jeremy Zirin, head of investment strategy at UBS Wealth Management. I think that's why the market is reacting positively today." The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 10.79 points, or 0.5 percent, to close at 2,106.63. Transocean, an operator of drilling rigs, soared 10 percent, the big-

sent Delta's stock up \$1.12, or 3 percent, to \$44.20. After the market closed Tuesday, Intel, the world's largest maker of computer chips, reported quarterly profits that beat analysts' targets. Intel's stock surged \$1.34, or 4 percent, to \$32.83. Crude oil jumped \$3.10 to settle at \$56.39, hitting its highest price this year, after the Energy Department said that storage of crude rose by the smallest amount in three months. Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils used by many U.S. refineries, rose \$1.89 to close at \$60.32 in London. Major markets in Europe ended the day mixed. Germany's DAX finished flat while France's CAC-40 gained 0.7 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 index of leading shares added 0.3 percent. Minutes after being forced from the stage by a protester, Mario Draghi, the president of the European Central Bank, indicated

In Asia, Japan's Nikkei 225 stock index slipped 0.2 percent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng gained 0.2 percent, while the Shanghai composite index lost 1.2 percent. Back in the U.S., Bank of America turned in a quarterly profit following a big loss a year ago as it put some of its legal troubles behind it. But revenue remained flat for its main businesses. The bank's stock dropped 18 cents, or 1 percent, to \$15.64. Aduro Biotech more than doubled on its first day of trading, closing at \$42, far above its initial offering price of \$17. The 147 percent increase beat the 119 percent first-day gain for Shake Shack on Jan. 30, making it the biggest first-day pop for an IPO this year. Precious and industrial metals traded higher. Gold rose \$8.70 to settle at \$1,201.30 an ounce, while silver rose 12 cents to \$16.28 an ounce. Copper picked up a penny to \$2.71 a pound. □

4 ways a surging dollar rattles world economies and markets

PAUL WISEMAN
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. dollar hasn't been on a roll like this since Ronald Reagan sat in the White House and "Raiders of the Lost Ark" ruled the box office. Since June 30, the greenback is up 28 percent against the euro, 18 percent against the Japanese yen and 40 percent against the Brazilian real. Not since 1981 has the dollar been so strong.

Some U.S. companies and investors wish it would take a breather. Delta Air Lines said Wednesday that the strong dollar is hurting ticket sales in some foreign markets and announced plans to pull back international service, primarily in Japan, Brazil, India, Africa and the Middle East. Johnson & Johnson on Tuesday blamed the dollar, in part, for dragging its first-quarter earnings down nearly 9 percent.

Meanwhile, the International Monetary Fund downgraded the outlook for U.S. economic growth this year and next, citing the strong dollar's damage to American exports.

The dollar is rising largely because the U.S. economy is outperforming most other developed economies and because U.S. interest rates are higher than those in Europe and Japan.

The run-up is having a big impact around the world. In the United States, it is pinching corporate profits, weighing on economic growth and delivering bargains for American tourists. In Europe and Japan, it's providing relief for economies that have been ailing for years. And in the emerging markets of Asia and Latin America, it is threatening financial stability.

Here's a look at the dollar's far-flung impact on:

CORPORATE PROFITS

The rising dollar hurts U.S. companies that do business abroad in two ways: It makes their products more expensive — and therefore less competitive — in foreign markets. And it means that the revenue U.S. companies collect in euros or yen is worth fewer dollars when they bring the money home.

J&J, for instance, said unfavorable exchange rates reduced the value of overseas sales by 13 percent in the first quarter.

Overall, the outlook for first-quarter corporate earnings has steadily deteriorated as the dollar climbed. At the end of last year, analysts were expecting Standard & Poor's 500 companies to register a 4 percent increase in earnings for the January-March period. By March 31, they were bracing for a 5 percent drop, according to FactSet and PNC Financial Services Group.

Earnings are expected to drop 12 percent for companies that get more than half their revenue outside the United States; the rest are expected to register flat earnings.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Weighed down by a strong dollar, U.S. exports fell 3 percent last year and were down another 1 percent the first two months of this year compared to January-February 2014. A drop in exports reduces U.S. economic growth. Citing the dollar's impact, the IMF on Tuesday downgraded the outlook for the U.S. economy. The IMF now expects economic growth of 3.1 percent both this year and next. That's solid — and an improvement on 2014's 2.4 percent expansion — but it's down from the IMF's January forecast of 3.6 percent growth in 2015 and 3.3 percent growth in 2016.

Continued on Page 27

Bank of America returns to profit as legal costs subside

KEN SWEET

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Bank of America returned to a profit in the first quarter as the legal troubles that have plagued the company for several years subsided. But the bank's primary businesses struggled as interest rates remained low. The bank's legal expenses, stemming from

the housing bubble and financial crisis, are behind it for the moment. Those costs fell to \$370 million from \$393 million in the fourth quarter and were a fraction of the \$6 billion a year earlier. That big hit — which pushed BofA to a loss in last year's first quarter — stemmed from a settlement with the agency that oversees mortgage

markets. BofA has paid out more than \$70 billion in legal settlements since 2008 to resolve its role in the financial crisis.

Revenue fell or was flat in BofA's four main businesses: consumer banking, wealth management, global banking and global markets. Net revenue for consumer banking fell to \$7.45 billion from \$7.65 bil-

lion. The bank's largest division by revenue was hurt by lower credit card yields and balances, as well as market-related adjustments to debt securities.

BofA has a higher exposure to low interest rates than other banks because of its focus on consumers. Those low rates mean it cannot charge as much on loans. Rates on mort-

gages and other consumer loans are affected by the yield on the U.S. 10-year Treasury note, which fell to around 1.92 percent from 2.19 percent in the first three months this year. JPMorgan Chase or Goldman Sachs, which have large trading operations, are able to offset that issue with higher earnings from that business. □

Delta's 1Q profit rises on more traffic, lower fuel prices

DAVID KOENIG

AP Airlines Writer

DALLAS (AP) — Delta Air Lines plans to reduce international flying later this year as travel demand in some places weakens due to lower oil prices and the strong U.S. dollar.

The airline said Wednesday that it will make cuts of up to 20 percent on routes to Japan, India, Brazil, Africa and the Middle East. It will suspend winter flights to Moscow.

Delta announced the moves as it reported first-quarter profit that more than tripled from a year ago, helped by lower jet fuel prices.

The results were slightly better than analysts expected, and the shares rose in afternoon trading.

CEO Richard Anderson said it was Delta's best January-through-March quarter ever both financially and operationally.

However, the strong U.S. dollar and low oil prices are hurting ticket sales in some foreign markets, and Delta announced that it will reduce its international passenger-carrying capacity

by 3 percent later this year. It's an even bigger cut, 6 percent, from Delta's original, ambitious plan.

Anderson told analysts on a conference call that the moves would get the airline's so-called unit revenue

through-June quarter.

Airline officials said that other than suspending seasonal service to Moscow, they would not eliminate routes altogether. Instead, they will use smaller planes or fly less often on existing

fares. They feared that airlines would abandon their recent strategy of no or slow growth in capacity, which has helped boost fares and produce record profits. Delta's announcement cheered them.

hope the rest of the industry follows Delta's lead."

That would squeeze bargain-hunting passengers, though.

Years ago, vacationers could often count on fare sales when airlines grew too quickly and then desperately tried to fill seats by cutting prices. But now airlines are keeping their planes nearly full. The average flight on Delta and Delta Connection in the first quarter was 81.7 percent full. Demand for travel is strong enough that the airlines don't need to discount deeply, as consumers saw even while jet fuel prices were tumbling last year.

"The years of huge fare sales, the boom-and-bust cycle that customers benefited from, are long gone," Corridore said.

Atlanta-based Delta Air Lines Inc., the nation's third-biggest airline company behind American and United, reported first-quarter net income of \$746 million, or 90 cents per share, up from \$213 million, or 25 cents per share, in the same period last year. □



People watch a landing Delta Air Lines jet approach the Narita International Airport from a popular viewing spot at Sakuranoyama Park in Narita, east of Tokyo. Delta Air Lines reported quarterly financial results on Wednesday, April 15, 2015.

(AP Photo/Koji Sasahara)

back on track. Revenue for every seat flown one mile, a closely watched figure in the airline business, fell 2 percent in the first quarter and is expected to decline between 2 percent and 4 percent in the April-

international routes. U.S. passenger-carrying capacity will grow 2 percent. Analysts have worried that falling oil prices have tempted airlines to add too many new flights, which tends to depress

"It's a great sign that the company is going to be disciplined whenever there is any sign of demand weakness anywhere in the world," Jim Corridore, an analyst with S&P Capital IQ, said in an interview. "We

CSX cuts forecast for the year after slower-than-expected 1Q

JOSH FUNK

AP Business Writer

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — CSX says the railroad won't deliver the double-digit profit growth it promised this year because coal demand remains weak.

Executives remain optimistic about the railroad's prospects because service is improving, but they said Wednesday that mid-

to-high single-digit profit growth is likely in 2015.

CSX said Tuesday that first-quarter profit grew 11 percent. While that exceeded Wall Street expectations, freight volume was lower than the company projected.

The strong dollar is hurting coal exports, metal and fertilizer shipments. And low natural gas prices have for

years cut into demand for coal from utilities.

Domestic coal shipments will likely be down at least 5 percent. "We just haven't found the bottom yet," CEO Michael Ward said.

In the first quarter, CSX hauled 1 percent more carloads of freight overall. But the company predicts that 29 percent of the businesses it serves — domestic and

export coal, forest products, metals and phosphates, and fertilizer — will ship less in 2015.

The railroad expects modest growth in shipments outside of the weak areas as the economy continues to expand at a slow, steady pace. "The other businesses we're feeling pretty good about," Ward said.

But one big growth area

for railroads in recent years, crude oil shipments, is expected to level off this year as a severe drop in energy prices slows drilling.

CSX Corp. reported \$442 million in first-quarter net income, or 45 cents per share, on \$3.03 billion revenue. The company operates more than 21,000 miles of track in 23 Eastern states and two Canadian provinces. □

Mutts



6 Chix



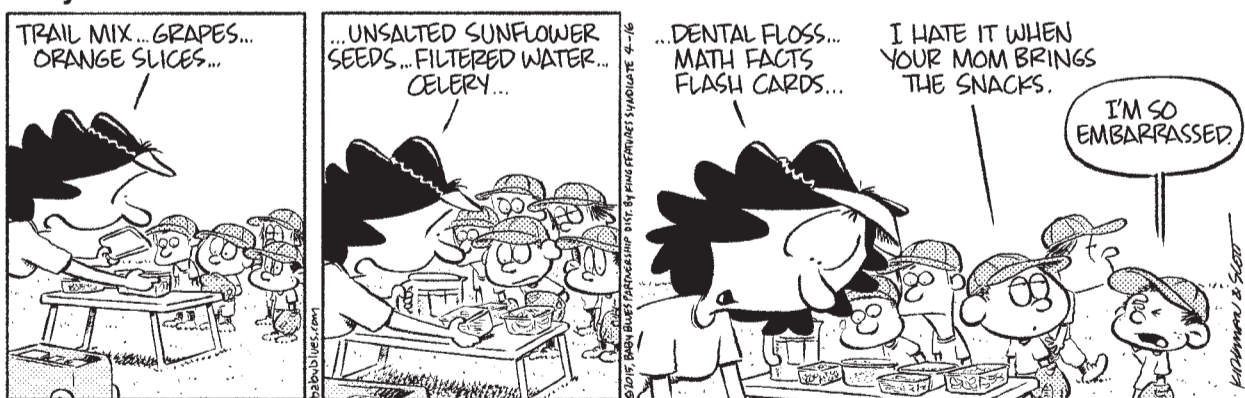
Blondie



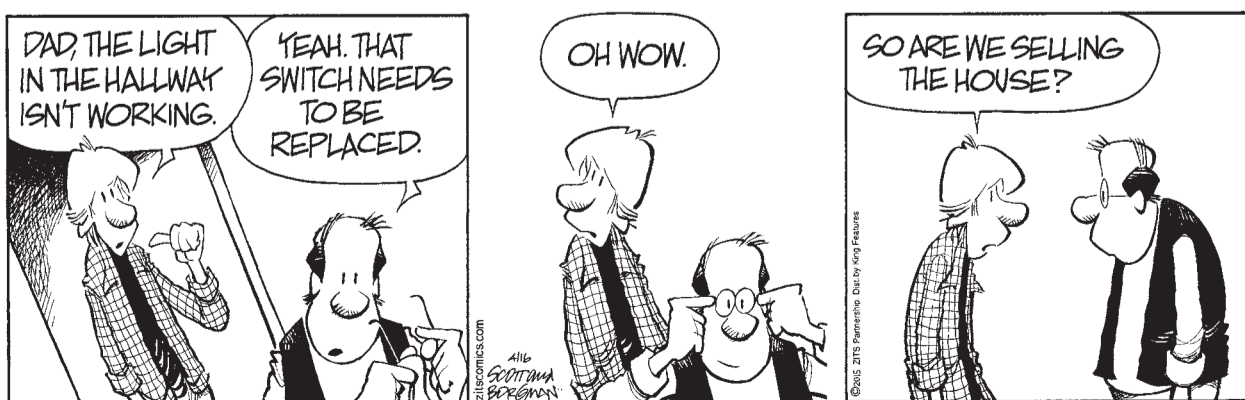
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			7	6				
		4		1		7		
		9		4		2		
3								4
	4	7		2		8	1	
9								2
		2		8		3		
		8		9		5		
			3		5			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/16

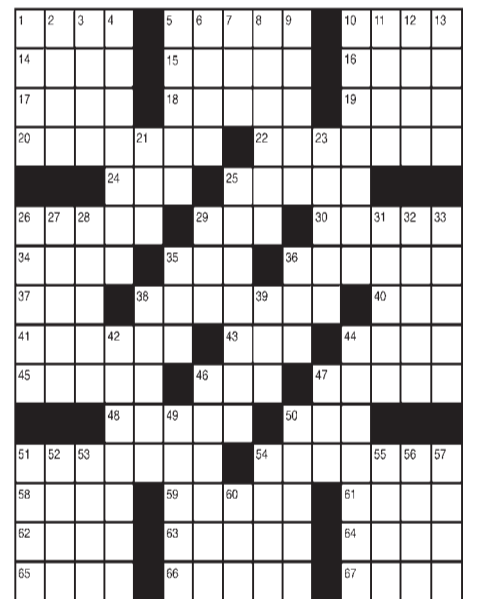
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1	7	3	5	8	2	9	4	6
9	5	4	1	7	6	8	2	3
8	6	2	9	3	4	1	7	5
2	8	5	4	6	9	7	3	1
6	9	7	3	1	8	2	5	4
3	4	1	2	5	7	6	9	8
5	2	9	8	4	1	3	6	7
7	3	8	6	2	5	4	1	9
4	1	6	7	9	3	5	8	2

ACROSS

- 1 Rescue
- 5 Uncomfortable indoor breeze
- 10 ___ to; like
- 14 Kiln
- 15 Passenger
- 16 Crash ___; ram
- 17 ___ for oneself; receive no help
- 18 Calcutta, ___
- 19 Garlands
- 20 Surprise greatly
- 22 Slender cat
- 24 JFK's Attorney General
- 25 "Casey ___ Bat"
- 26 Cowboy's rope
- 29 Pesky insect
- 30 ___ legislation; make laws
- 34 Early guitar
- 35 Capture
- 36 Sierra Club's concern
- 37 Years lived
- 38 Knocked out before surgery
- 40 TV's Rather
- 41 Grassland
- 43 Forget-me-___
- 44 Facial twitches
- 45 Carrying a gun
- 46 Goal; objective
- 47 Peniless
- 48 Black-and-white mammal
- 50 Farrow or Sara
- 51 ___ oneself; express worries to a confidant
- 54 Dogs
- 58 Cow comments
- 59 Leg bone
- 61 Long sandwich
- 62 Window glass
- 63 Build
- 64 British noble
- 65 Get rid of
- 66 Tries to find
- 67 Additionally



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 4/16/15

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

FIRE	ATILT	CHAR
LOAD	NICER	HOB0
ATMS	GREGARIOUS	
PAS	FLED	EMPTY
HIRED	APE	
CRATER	PLASMA	
LICIT	CAREY	ADS
ASKS	HAVOC	SNAP
MEL	TALES	CONGA
REFORM	TUREEN	
IRE	POSER	
ASSET	SLAP	LBS
BALLERINAS	SEEP	
CLAD	EDICT	USER
SETS	DOPEY	ESPY

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DOWN

- 1 Couch
- 2 Pennsylvania and Fifth: abbr.
- 3 Express pent-up frustration
- 4 Sign one's name to
- 5 Beverage
- 6 Orange peel
- 7 Find a sum
- 8 Full of spunk
- 9 Characteristic
- 10 Disease
- 11 Patella's place
- 12 Ending for an inflammation
- 13 Schnoz
- 21 Eerie saucer, for short
- 23 ___ of; before
- 25 Neighbor of Kosovo
- 26 Pack animal
- 27 Hole-making tool
- 28 Water vapor
- 29 Passing craze
- 31 Sound portion of a telecast
- 32 ___ up; laugh heartily
- 33 Uptight
- 35 Just purchased
- 36 Hair covering
- 38 Malt shop orders
- 39 Actor Hanks
- 42 Unseated
- 44 Windpipe
- 46 Think highly of
- 47 Brief life sketch
- 49 Memos
- 50 Castle trenches
- 51 AL and NL game officials
- 52 Ark builder
- 53 Femur or fibula
- 54 Choose
- 55 Get well
- 56 Goofs
- 57 Fly alone
- 60 Stinging insect

DOLLAR

Continued from Page 24

Meanwhile, Japan and Europe are poised to benefit from the dollar's might. The IMF predicts the Japanese economy will grow 1 percent this year versus an earlier forecast of 0.6 percent. It also upgraded the forecast for the 19 countries that use the euro currency to 1.5 percent growth this year (up from a January forecast of 1.2 percent).

FINANCIAL STABILITY

In the emerging market countries of Asia and Latin America, the stronger dollar cuts two ways. Yes, it gives exporters a lift, but it also poses a threat to financial stability. Enticed by low interest

rates, emerging market countries borrowed heavily in U.S. dollars over the past decade. From 2005 to 2015, dollar-denominated debt — mostly corporate bonds and loans — shot up from \$262 billion to \$837 billion in the emerging markets of Asia and from \$586 billion to \$963 billion in Latin America, according to the Institute of International Finance.

As the dollar rises, it takes more local currency to generate enough dollars to meet loan payments. Emerging market corporate borrowers could get squeezed. The pain could spread if those companies suddenly withdrew deposits from local banks to meet their U.S. dollar payments, or if the investors who own the emerging market bonds get rattled and sell them in a panic. □

Classifieds



Marriott Aruba Surf Club

GOLD Season

Ocean side \$9900
Ocean view \$8900
Ocean front \$14500
3 BEDRM OV \$17k

PLATINUM Season

Ocean view \$16k
Ocean side \$17500
Ocean front \$28900
3 BEDRM OV \$27k
Plat. Plus Holiday 51 OV \$46k
Plat. Plus NY 52 OV \$49k

Marriott Aruba Ocean club

GOLD Season

2B Ocean view \$9k
2B Ocean front \$14900
1B Ocean front \$10900

PLATINUM Season

2B ocean view \$18500
2B Ocean front \$29k
1B Ocean view \$11500
**Destination points available between \$7 and \$8 per point.

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Week	room	price
1+2	517	\$ 19,000
10	137	\$ 9,000
14	348	\$ 11,500
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Study: More people could survive tsunami if they walk faster

By **JEFF BARNARD**
Associated Press

GRANTS PASS, Ore. (AP)

-- About 5,500 more people could survive a major tsunami hitting the Pacific Northwest if they just walk a little faster to higher ground after roads are knocked out, a new study shows.

The report published Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences looked at 73 communities along 700 miles of coastline in Oregon, Washington and Northern California. The area is considered most at risk from the next major earthquake and tsunami in the Cascadia Subduction Zone, where two plates of the Earth's crust come together miles off the coast. Emergency preparedness experts generally agree that after the quake and tsunami, most roads will be too damaged for driving, so people will have to walk to safety.

Geographers estimated 21,562 residents would not make it to safety if they walk slowly - at about 2.5 mph. But if they walk faster, at about 3.5 mph, the death toll drops to 15,970. About 70 percent of them would be in Washington, nearly 30 percent in Oregon and only 4 percent in California.

The study said people working or staying at motels in the tsunami area also will be at risk, but it didn't say how many. It also noted

where communities have dependent-care facilities, where residents might have trouble walking.

Lead author Nathan Wood, a geographer for the U.S. Geological Survey in Portland, Oregon, said

Ocean Shores and Long Beach, Washington, and Seaside, Oregon, have issues" because higher ground is too far to walk in the time before a tsunami hits, he said.

"What we wanted to show

it last released 315 years ago, generating a magnitude-9 earthquake and a tsunami that washed away houses in Japan.

After feeling the quake, people in the tsunami area have about 15 minutes to

better look at how different speeds (of walking) affect survivability.

"It really gives the individual a lot of information about how to survive these types of events."

The study also provides better information to look at which communities might consider strategies like vertical evacuation, where buildings or mounds of earth are constructed as places to escape the tsunami, said John Schelling, earthquake, tsunami and volcanos program manager for Washington Emergency Management.

Schelling noted Ocasta Elementary School south of Westport, Washington, is building a new gymnasium tall enough for the roof to serve as a tsunami evacuation structure. Pacific County is seeking a grant to build a large berm next to Long Beach Elementary School for the same purpose.

The study said evacuation training might be the focus for Aberdeen, Washington, and Eureka, California, which have the highest numbers of people in tsunami zones, but they have time to reach safety. Vertical evacuation structures might be considered in Ocean Shores, Long Beach and Pacific County, Washington, and Seaside, Oregon, because many people in those cities lack enough time to reach safety. □



This Aug. 10, 2011 photo shows a tsunami evacuation sign in Long Beach, Wash. A new study shows that about 5,500 more people could survive a major tsunami hitting the Northwest Coast if they just walk a little faster to reach higher ground and safety.
Associated Press

the findings show tsunami risks are a public health issue as well as an emergency preparedness issue. Promoting healthy lifestyles that help people walk faster would save lives.

Wood added the study provides the most detailed look yet at tsunami risks, and should help in planning evacuation strategies and educating the public.

"People kind of know that

is that all the communities have issues from Cascadia, but they are different issues," Wood said.

The Cascadia Subduction Zone runs offshore from Cape Mendocino, California, to Vancouver Island, B.C. It is the place where the rocky plate underneath the Pacific Ocean pushes under North America. On average, it breaks loose every 300 to 600 years, and

reach higher ground before a wall of water 30 to 40 feet high washes ashore.

Althea Rizzo of the Oregon Office of Emergency Management said the study offered the best look yet at how many people might be in the highest-risk tsunami zones.

"Most of our evacuation modeling is based on an average," she added.

"Nate's work gives us a

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In this photo provided by the United Nations, U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, right, presents actor Daniel Craig, center, with a document designating him as the UN Global Advocate for the Elimination of Mines and Explosive Hazards, at United Nations headquarters, Tuesday, April 14, 2015. At left is Agnès Marcaillou, Director of the UN Mine Action Service.

Associated Press

UN chief gives 007 a special mission to eliminate mines

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Daniel Craig, who won international acclaim playing James Bond, received a special mission on Tuesday when Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed the actor as the first U.N. Global Advocate for the Elimination of Mines and Explosive Hazards.

In a brief ceremony at U.N. headquarters,

Ban thanked Craig for his commitment to support the U.N.'s vision for a world free from the threat of land mines and explosive remnants of war.

"Along with moviegoers worldwide, I have been

on the edge of my seat watching Mr. Craig, as James Bond, defuse ticking time-bombs with seconds to spare," the secretary-general said.

"I am even more excited that Mr. Craig has agreed to use his star power to draw attention to the noble causes of mine destruction and mine awareness."

He said Craig's designation as a global advocate for three years was one of a number of events organized to observe the 10th anniversary of the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. □

Lawsuit vs. 'Dr. Phil' over Natalee Holloway report tossed

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A defamation lawsuit filed against television host "Dr. Phil" McGraw by two brothers once considered suspects in the disappearance of Alabama teen Natalee Holloway has been dismissed.

Court records show the case by Deepak and Satish Kalpoe was tossed out

Monday, one week before a trial was scheduled to begin.

The Kalpoes sued McGraw and CBS over a 2005 report that featured a secretly recorded conversation between Deepak Kalpoe and a private investigator. The Kalpoes' lawsuit accused the show of altering the footage to make it seem

Wilderness, its inhabitants to star in 'Our Planet' series



This photo provided by Netflix/naturepl.com and WWF-International shows an African Elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) in front of double rainbow, in Masai Mara, Kenya, included in the Netflix natural history series, "Our Planet," in collaboration with Silverback Films and WWF. The eight-part series debuts in 2019.

Associated Press

LYNN ELBER
AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The sweeping documentary series "Planet Earth" is getting a sequel.

"Our Planet" will focus on the Earth's last wilderness areas and the animals living there, the project's British producers said Wednesday. The filmmakers said they plan to use the latest digital camera technology as they venture from the planet's ice caps to ocean depths to deserts and remote forests.

Audiences will have to be patient: The eight-part series will take four years to

make and is planned for a 2019 debut for Netflix customers internationally.

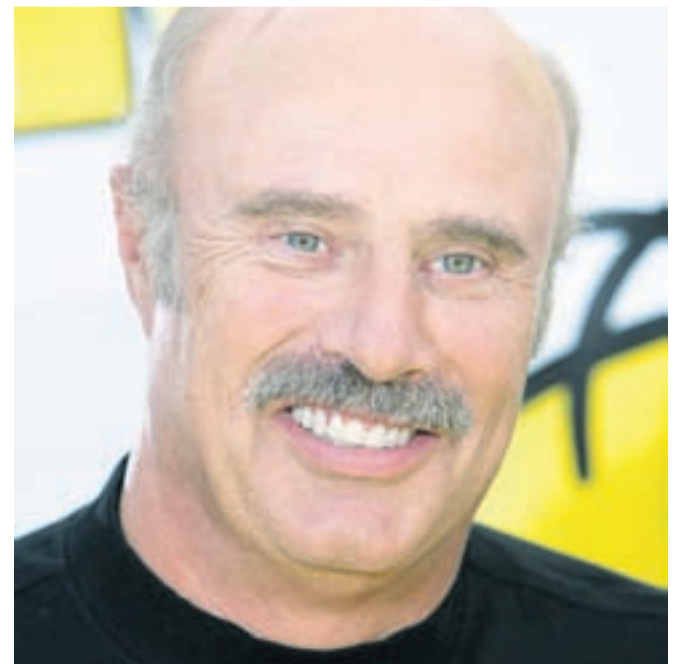
"Our Planet" is being produced by U.K.-based Silverback Films in collaboration with World Wildlife Fund, an independent conservation group. Silverback company directors Alastair Fothergill and Keith Scholey, whose credits include "Frozen Planet" and "African Cats" as well as "Planet Earth," will lead the production.

"We will reveal the most amazing sights on Earth and show them in ways they have never been seen before," Fothergill

and Scholey promised in a statement. The series is intended to wow "global audiences with the wonder and importance of the natural world," they said.

World Wildlife Fund is opening its projects in protected areas to Silverback Films and will join with the company to create multimedia storytelling on WWF's website and other platforms.

The series will introduce viewers to fragile habitats and "precious species" and comes at a critical time for global conservation, said Colin Butfield, WWF executive producer. □



This July 24, 2007 file photo shows, Dr. Phil McGraw in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Grunge star says studio owner has no right to master tapes



In this Sept. 4, 2014, file photo, Chris Cornell, of Soundgarden, performs with his band at the NFL football Kickoff concert in Seattle.

GENE JOHNSON
Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Soundgarden frontman Chris Cornell said Tuesday that the co-founder of a famed Seattle recording studio has no legitimate claim to own the master tapes of a defining album of the grunge era — “Temple of the Dog,” which Cornell recorded with Eddie Vedder and other members of Pearl Jam in 1990.

A&M records sued Raj Parashar, who founded London Bridge Studios with his brother, in March, demanding that Parashar turn over the master tapes. The label says it bought the album — and the master tapes — in 1991. In a statement issued Tuesday, Cornell agreed.

“A&M Records paid for the recordings and the use of the studio,” he said. For Parashar “to pretend he has a right to keep the recordings makes no more sense than the owner of a laundromat claiming he owns the clothes you washed in his washing machine.”

A&M didn’t say in its complaint why it wants the master recordings, but such tapes can be used in re-issuing albums. Next year

marks the album’s 25th anniversary.

Parashar’s lawyer, Warren Rheume, said Tuesday that his client does in fact own the tapes. Raj Parashar helped engineer the album’s production, was never paid for his efforts, and was not part of an agreement that his brother reached with the label in 1993, Rheume said.

The band Temple of the Dog was founded by Cornell in 1990. He was joined by future members of Pearl Jam, including Vedder, who had just moved to Seattle. The album was recorded in 15 days after Cornell wrote several songs as a tribute to Mother Love Bone singer Andrew Wood following his fatal heroin overdose.

According to the lawsuit, Parashar’s brother, Rick Parashar, produced “Temple of the Dog” on a verbal agreement with the band. It was released by A&M Records in 1991 to positive reviews, but it failed to chart. The following year, A&M re-released it as a collaboration of two of its most popular acts. The album, with the popular single “Hunger Strike,” eventually sold more than 1 million copies. The lawsuit said that in 1993

A&M and Rick Parashar signed a contract in which he agreed to turn over the master tapes and all rights to them for \$35,000.

But Raj Parashar was not a party to that deal and had not given up any rights he had to the masters, Rheume said.

“Raj made the facility available, he wrangled people over the two-week recording period, and I believe he was the recording engineer,” Rheume said. “Raj has no agreement with A&M.”

Rick Parashar died last year.

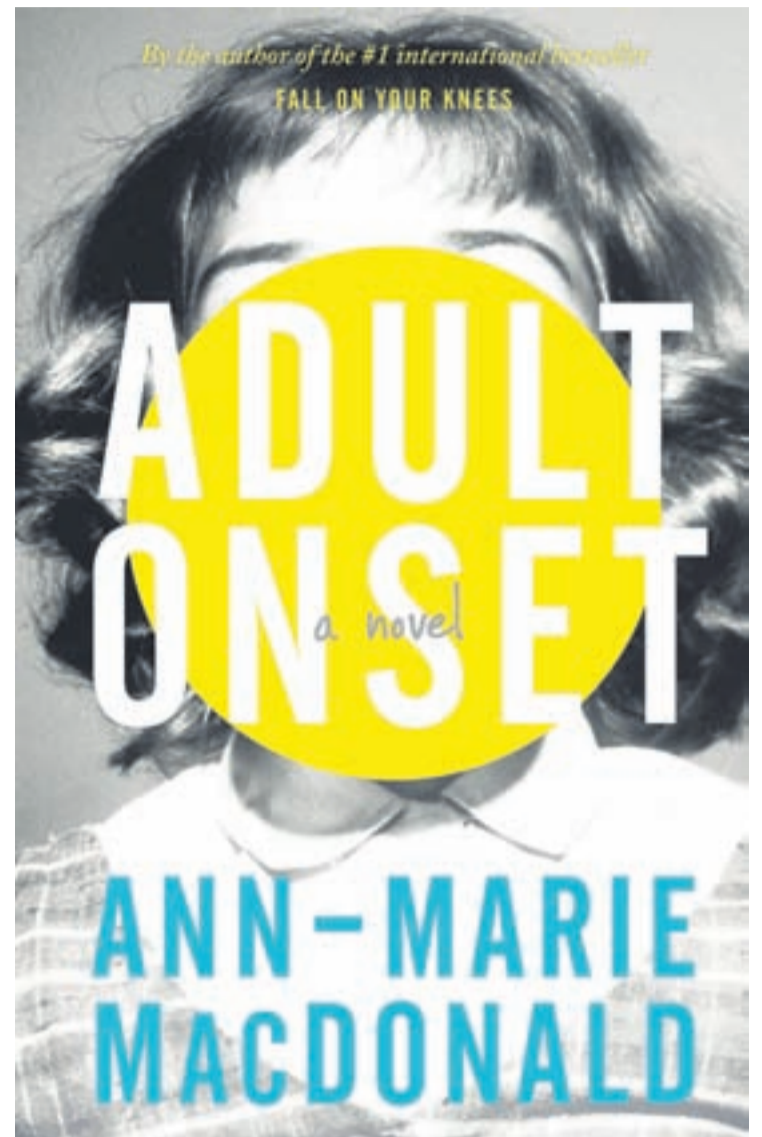
The lawsuit was initially filed in Washington state court. Raj Parashar had it transferred to federal court last week.

In its complaint, A&M said that until 2013 it believed the musicians had the master tapes, but learned otherwise from a representative. The Parashar brothers built the studio in 1985. Rick Parashar’s credits include Pearl Jam’s seminal album, “Ten,” as well as recordings of Alice in Chains, Blind Melon and Dinosaur Jr.

The lawsuit demands that Parashar immediately surrender the tapes. It also asks for damages and legal fees. □

Associated Press

Review: Narrative of ‘Adult Onset’ feels intensely personal



This book cover image released by Tin House shows “Adult Onset,” a novel by Ann-Marie MacDonald. Associated Press

MICHELLE SCHERAGA
Associated Press

Ann-Marie MacDonald’s latest novel, “Adult Onset,” tracks a week in the life of Mary Rose MacKinnon.

A famous author of YA novels, Mary Rose is stalled on starting the last book of a popular trilogy and taking care of her two young children while her partner, who is focusing on her career, is directing a play out of town. To that end, it’s the most accurate description of solo parenting I’ve ever read, not so much juggling a number of tasks from the seemingly simple (answering one email) to crucial (keeping scissors away from a toddler) as trying to keep from drowning under them. MacDonald nails both the hilarity and the crippling anxiety of day-to-day life, revealing they’re not necessarily mutually exclusive, as well as the internal struggle between

needing help and believing one should be capable of handling all this without it.

The novel starts with an email from Mary Rose’s father, which triggers the memory of a childhood bone injury. As her week progresses, Mary Rose comes to wonder how reliable her memories are, and her fear about what’s behind this memory continues to affect her relationships with her parents, siblings and children.

The narrative feels intensely personal, and in fact MacDonald drew from her own experiences in writing “Adult Onset.” Her writing is dizzying and brilliant and often disorienting, which beautifully supports the novel’s themes, perfectly capturing how it feels to be unmoored and seemingly alone. Equally moving are flashback passages centering on Mary Rose’s mother, herself suffering through postpartum depression. □

The Revolution Lives!



DAVID BROOKS
© 2015 New York Times

Beyond all the talk of centrifuges and enrichment capacities, President Barack Obama's deal with Iran is really a giant gamble on the nature of the Iranian regime. The core question is: Are the men who control that country more like Lenin or are they more like Gorbachev? Do they still fervently believe in their revolution and would they use their post-sanctions wealth to export it and destabilize their region? Or have they lost faith in their revolution? Will they use a deal as a way to rejoin the community of nations?

We got a big piece of evidence on those questions Thursday. Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, delivered his first big response to the sort-of-agreed-upon nuclear framework. What did we learn?

First, we learned that Iran's supreme leader still regards the United States as his enemy. The audience chanted "Death to America" during his speech, and Khamenei himself dismissed America's "devilish" intentions. When a radical religious leader uses words like "devilish," he's not using the way it's used in a chocolate-cake commercial. He means he thinks the United States is the embodiment of evil.

Second, we learned that the West wants a deal more than Khamenei does.

"I was never optimistic about negotiating with America," he declared.

Throughout the speech, his words dripped with a lack of enthusiasm for the whole enterprise. Obama is campaigning for a deal, while Khamenei is unmoved. That imbalance explains why Western negotiators had to give away so many of their original demands. The United States had originally insisted upon an end to Iran's nuclear program, a suspension of its enrichment of uranium, but that was conceded to keep Iran at the table.

Third, we learned that the ayatollah is demanding total trust from us while offering maximum contempt in return. Khamenei communicated a smug and self-righteous sense of superiority toward the West throughout his remarks. He haughtily repeated his demand that the West permanently end all sanctions on the very day the deal is signed. He insisted that no inspectors could visit Iranian military facilities. This would make a hash of verification and enforcement.

Fourth, we learned that Khamenei and the United States see different realities. It's been pointed out that Iranian and U.S. officials describe the "agreed upon" framework in different ways. That's because, Khamenei suggested, the Americans are lying.

"I'm really worried as the other side is into lying and breaching promises. An example was the White House fact sheet," he said. "This came out a few hours after the negotiations, and most of it was against the agreement and was wrong. They are always trying to deceive and break promises."

Fifth, Khamenei reminded us that, even at the most delicate moment in these talks, he is still intent on putting Iran on a collision course with Sunnis and the West. He attacked the Saudi leaders as "inexperienced youngsters" and criticized efforts to push back on Iranian efforts to destabilize Yemen.

The foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed al-Nahyan, characterized Iran's recent bellicosity this way: "It's about Iran believing in exporting the revolution. It's part of their regime, a part of their ideology."

Khamenei's remarks could be bluster, tactical positioning for some domestic or international audience. But they are entirely consistent with recent Iranian behavior. His speech suggests that Iran still fundamentally sees itself in a holy war with the West, a war that can be managed prudently but that is still a fundamental clash of values and interests. His speech suggests, as Henry Kissinger and George Shultz put it in a brilliant op-ed essay in *The Wall Street Journal* on Wednesday, that there is no congruence of interests between us and Iran. We envision a region of stable nation-states. They see a revolutionary anti-Western order.

If Iran still has revolutionary intent, then no amount of treaty subtlety will enforce this deal. Iran will begin subtly subverting any agreement. It will continue to work on its advanced nuclear technology even during the agreement. It will inevitably use nuclear weaponry, or even the threat of eventual nuclear weaponry, to advance its apocalyptic interests. Every other regional power will prepare for the worst, and we'll get a pseudo nuclear arms race in a region of disintegrating nation-states.

If Obama is right and Iran is on the verge of change, the deal is a home run. But we have a terrible record of predicting trends in the Middle East. Republican and Democratic administrations have continually anticipated turning points in the Middle East: Republicans after interventions, Democrats after negotiations. But the dawns never come.

At some point, there has to be a scintilla of evidence that Iran wants to change. Khamenei's speech offers none. Negotiating an arms treaty with Brezhnev and Gorbachev was one thing. But with this guy? Good luck with that. □



Where American Government Excels



PAUL KRUGMAN
© 2015 New York Times

As Republican presidential hopefuls trot out their policy agendas - which always involve cutting taxes on the rich while slashing benefits for the poor and middle class - some real new thinking is happening on the other side of the aisle. Suddenly, it seems, many Democrats have decided to break with Beltway orthodoxy, which always calls for cuts in "entitlements." Instead, they're proposing that Social Security benefits actually be expanded. This is a welcome development in two ways. First, the specific case for expanding Social Security is quite good. Second, and more fundamentally, Democrats finally seem to be standing up to anti-government propaganda and recognizing the reality that there are some things the government does better than the private sector. Like all advanced nations, America mainly relies on private markets and private initiatives to provide its citizens with the things they want and need, and hardly anyone in our political discourse would propose changing that. The days when it sounded like a good idea to have the government directly run large parts of the economy are long past.

Yet we also know that some things more or less must be done by government. Every economics textbook talks about "public goods" like national defense and air traffic control that can't

be made available to anyone without being made available to everyone, and which profit-seeking firms, therefore, have no incentive to provide. But are public goods the only area where the government outperforms the private sector? By no means.

One classic example of government doing it better is health insurance. Yes, conservatives constantly agitate for more privatization - in particular, they want to convert Medicare into nothing more than vouchers for the purchase of private insurance - but all the evidence says this would move us in precisely the wrong direction. Medicare and Medicaid are substantially cheaper and more efficient than private insurance; they even involve less bureaucracy. Internationally, the American health system is unique in the extent to which it relies on the private sector, and it's also unique in its incredible inefficiency and high costs.

And there's another major example of government superiority: providing retirement security.

Maybe we wouldn't need Social Security if ordinary people really were the perfectly rational, farsighted agents economists like to assume in their models (and right-wingers like to assume in their propaganda). In an idealized world, 25-year-old workers would base their decisions about how much to save on a realistic assessment of what they will need to live comfortably when they're in their 70s. They'd also be smart and sophisticated in how they invested those savings, carefully seeking the best trade-offs between risk and return.

In the real world, however, many and arguably most working Americans are saving much too little for their retirement. They're also investing these savings badly. For example, a recent White House report found that Americans are los-

ing billions each year thanks to investment advisers trying to maximize their own fees rather than their clients' welfare.

You might be tempted to say that if workers save too little and invest badly, it's their own fault. But people have jobs and children, and they must cope with all the crises of life. It's unfair to expect them to be expert investors, too. In any case, the economy is supposed to work for real people leading real lives; it shouldn't be an obstacle course only a few can navigate.

And in the real world of retirement, Social Security is a shining example of a system that works. It's simple and clean, with low operating costs and minimal bureaucracy. It provides older Americans who worked hard all their lives with a chance of living decently in retirement, without requiring that they show an inhuman ability to think decades ahead and be investment whizzes as well. The only problem is that the decline of private pensions, and their replacement with inadequate 401(k)-type plans, has left a gap that Social Security isn't currently big enough to fill. So why not make it bigger?

Needless to say, suggestions along these lines are already provoking near-hysterical reactions, not just from the right, but from self-proclaimed centrists. As I wrote some years ago, calling for cuts to Social Security has long been seen inside the Beltway as a "badge of seriousness, a way of showing how statesmanlike and tough-minded you are." And it's only a decade since former President George W. Bush tried to privatize the program, with a lot of centrist support.

But true seriousness means looking at what works and what doesn't. Privatized retirement schemes work very badly; Social Security works very well. And we should build on that success. □



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ping session with John Hardy stylist Jo Hoffman, while enjoying a refreshing Bellini cocktail at Little Switzerland Royal Plaza. Also, only during this week you will receive a FREE John Hardy canvas tote with your purchase. John Hardy week finish-

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